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African Violet Magazine

DEC. 1950 VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

The assistance of "Program Notes" is gratefully acknowledged for the holly design on the front cover and for the suggestions given us thru other drawings all of which inspired the illustrations for "The Convention."

With heart felt thanks I wish to express my appreciation to each and every member of the Staff. Enough praise cannot be given them . . . they are wonderful!

And to you and you every wish for happiness during the coming year . . .

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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Front Cover: Holly design reprinted with permission of "Program Notes." Poem by Mary Parker inspired by the 1948 Christmas Greeting of Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer to the Long Beach Saintpaulia Society.

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President's Message

A Successful Year Closes

As we come to the end of our fiscal year -- our official family is being changed somewhat.

Some of our fine officers, having served our Society faithfully, are retiring. They have been an inspiration to me, and I have enjoyed knowing them and working with them. Our entire membership owes them a debt of gratitude. We are all happy to have them as members on whom we may, and probably shall, call for advice.

To our new officers -- Welcome! We are not strangers -- having worked side by side on a number of projects over the past several years. I am sure we may count on continued co-operation and service to our fine Society, so that we may continue to grow and expand our influence.

Concerning expansion -- our growth has been so phenomenal and so solid that a major change has had to be made. The Treasurer's work has become impossible to handle simply as an extra chore. Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, who was elected to this office, has had to give it up because of the tremendous volume of work and the increased time demands.

It became necessary, therefore, for your Executive Committee to call back into harness our old friend, Mr. Boyce Edens, who has assumed this office.

High on the list of the joys of the past year are the many delightful new varieties of African violets given us by our commercial growers. There are many more wonderful developments in process of propagation. They will be available in the near future and we shall all share these beauties.

As I recall the accomplishments of the year just ended, probably the one greatest advance in our field has been the improvements in pest control and the wonderful new insecticides being produced for us. These have helped tremendously to reduce the one unpleasantness in violet culture -- losing our fine plants.

The story of African violets is definitely one of steady progress. More and better violets must be our goal.

My fellow officers join me in wishing you all that is good in the coming year. We shall do our very best to merit your support.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

Pictures used with permission of "Flower Grower"

Water Culture . . . .

Alta M. Richert, Mich.

Up until the moment of the crash it had been a quiet peaceful evening in the Richert domicile. Soft music from the radio, friend husband reading the newspaper in his favorite chair, the children playing happily in the living room, while I was finishing the dinner dishes. Then the loud noise of falling furniture, and a couple of tearful childish voices crying "Oh, look at Mommy's violet!" In the middle of the living room floor lay what was once my pet Blue Boy. It was a six year old plant and a constant bloomer. My husband said "Why don't you put it in water, honey! Maybe it will live." I did just that.

So it happened that I discovered water culture for African violets. That was the beginning of the most interesting phase of my fascinating hobby. Soon I found my Blue Boy was thriving and putting forth new leaves. The new root system looked much healthier than that developed in soil. I liked it in the pretty vase, so rather than plant it in soil I fed it a wee bit of Hyponex. Soon buds were setting. All this happened three years ago and this plant has never been without blossoms since. This Blue Boy is now nine years old and still holds the spotlight in my collection. At this writing there are thirty-five blossoms on the single crown plant.

My Pink Beauty was the second to receive the water culture treatment. On both these plants the blossoms attain two inches diameter at maturity, which is much larger than they were in soil. I now have twenty-two plants in water. Fifteen are blooming and another three will join the show within a week. Others have tiny buds showing.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever!" A blooming African violet is lovely even in an ordinary flower pot; but put it in an exquisite vase or a pretty pottery container and its beauty is greatly enhanced. I'm ever alert looking for attractive containers, and that doesn't necessarily mean expensive ones. My Pink Beauty is much admired in a green pottery bird bath with a cute little yellow bird perched on it. I treasure a pair of little oriental vases brought to me from Japan by a friend who was a missionary to that far away land. I have a bluebird, as well as a woodpecker, both perched beside a hollow tree stump, that I found in a local five and ten cent store. And I mustn't forget to mention

my favorite, a cunning little figurine couple attached to a china container, a Mother's day gift from my boy and girl when they were tiny. I do not use metal or clear glass containers. I have some sweet little pink and blue gold trimmed glass vases that have proved satisfactory. English bone china cups and saucers are lovely, as are pretty china sugars and creamers. It's loads of fun to browse around for interesting and different containers.

Beautiful table centerpieces can be arranged in a matter of minutes when your plants are in water. When I want to make a low arrangement, I put my prettiest plants in custard cups and set them in a low bowl. The foliage completely hides the cups, which contain water of course. It's as easy as changing cut flowers from one vase to another. It is also interesting to combine colors. Right now, I have a small white plant and a pale blue in the same container.

The size of the container must of course correspond with the size of the plant. The leaves support the weight of the plant on the rim of the container. The water level must be high enough to cover all the roots, but below the crown of the plant. The manufacturers of Hyponex recommend two teaspoons to a gallon of water, which is probably the best proportion to use. I do not mix it in large quantities. My larger containers hold approximately one cup. I put in a scant eighth of a teaspoon and add lukewarm water. The smaller ones get less in proportion. Occasionally the center leaves get sort of a grayish coating and feel damp to the touch. When this happens I wash the leaves carefully and put them on a plain water diet for a while. My little beauties are quite heavy drinkers so I give them a bit of water about every other day. At approximately ten day or two week intervals they are completely changed. While the plant rests in a water glass, I empty the container, wash it thoroughly, and add fresh Hyponex and water.

Of course, I realize that the chemical content of the water in some communities could present a problem in water culture. We are fortunate in Marysville in that our violets like to drink the same water that we do. However, there is always the possibility of rain or snow water — which would be the natural solution to that problem.

Do you think all this sounds like a lot of work? It isn't, it's fun! You should see the bright eyed multicolored faces that smile their "Thank you's" from my built-in bay window garden. They are the joy of my life!

S. AMANIENSIS

Photo by E. N. Huby

Saintpaulia Amaniensis

A New Species of Saintpaulia

Evan Roberts, Mich.

New species of African violets are continually being discovered in their native habitat. Just exactly how many different species of **Saintpaulia** will finally be described is a matter of speculation.

The newest of the African violets has a distinct creeping stem and is similar in this respect to **Saintpaulia magungensis**, **S. grotei**, and **S. goetzeana** which also may be grown as creeping, cascade or climbing specimens. Photographs of **Saintpaulia grotei** to illustrate how these stemmed species may be grown will be in the March issue of this magazine. These beautiful plants were grown by Mr. Harvey Cox of Long Beach, California who recently won a blue ribbon awarded for the "best in the show" at an African violet show in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. A description of **S. grotei** may be found in the African Violet Magazine, Vol. 3, Number 3, March, 1950.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Robert Wright, Director of Publications for the African Violet Society, Professor Charles Gilly, Taxonomist, Michigan State College, and to Harvey C. Cox for their generous assistance in the preparation of this article. The description of the new species, **Saintpaulia amaniensis**, is as follows:

Stems procumbent, branched, rooting where they come in contact with soil, pale green, up to 10 cm. long, 4—8mm. in diameter, with internodes 2—15 mm. long. Vegetative parts of plant covered with silky pubescence of long and short hairs intermixed, the short hairs appressed, the long ones spreading and 3—6 times longer than the short ones. Leaves medium green above, pale greenish-white below, ovate to ovate-elliptical, 2.5-5 cm. long and 2—3.5 cm. wide, apices acute or subacute, bases subcordate, margins crenate-den-

tate or dentate, slightly revolute; midrib prominent, impressed above, scarcely paler green than the upper leaf surface; primary veins generally 4 on either side of the midrib, impressed above, prominent below. Petioles 4—9 cm. long, 2—3 mm. in diameter, nearly terete; inflorescences 2-flowered, the peduncles 3—4 cm. long, arising from the upper leaf axils and exceeding the subtending leaves, bibracteolate; bractlets linear, acute 1—2 mm. long and nearly 0.3 mm. wide; pedicels 1.5—2 cm. long, erect at anthesis, usually reflexed following flowering. Flowers about 2.7 cm. broad when fully opened; sepals 5, brownish purple, lanceolate, 2.5—3 mm. long. Corolla violet-blue, the central portion darker, 5-lobed, the outer surface sparsely pubescent and the margins of the lobes densely and minutely ciliate with glandular hairs; upper two lobes oval, 7—10 mm. long and 4—5 mm. wide, the inner margins overlapping about 4 mm.; lateral lobes oval, 10—12 mm. long and 7—10 mm. wide; lower lobe broadly oval, 12—15 mm. long and 8—10 mm. wide. Stamens two, inserted at mouth of corolla tube on either side of the lower lobe; filaments 2.5—3mm. long; anthers connivent, deltoid-cordate, bright yellow, about 1.5—2 mm. long and 2 mm broad at the base, the sacs divergent and dehiscent by short basal slits. Staminodes two, papilliform, inserted on tube, rarely more than 0.1 mm. long. Ovary surrounded at base by narrow reddish nectary disk, at anthesis 1.5 mm. long, ovoid-conical, pale green, gradually tapering into the slender pale violet-blue style 5—7 mm. long; stigma minutely 2-lobed.

Type Specimen: E. P. Roberts 2 (deposited in the herbarium of Michigan State College) from a plant grown from material collected in the foothills of the Usambara Mountains, near Amani, Tanganyika Territory, East Africa.

Saintpaulia amaniensis E. P. Roberts **sp. nov.**—Herba basi ramosa ramis procumbentibus, demum adscendentibus, cum foliis pedunculis et sepalis pubescentia pilis brevis et pilis longis intermixtis; foliis subcarnosis cum lamina crenato-dentata vel dentata ovata vel ovato-elliptica, ad basim subcordata et ad apicem acuta vel subacuta, subtus alboviridis; pedunculis tenuibus folia superantibus 2-floris, bibracteolatis, bracteolis linearis acutis; sepalis lanceolatis, corollae tubum brevum paullo superantibus; corollae lobis densiuscule glanduloso-ciliatis, posticus ovalis quam lobi laterales ovales 1½-plo brevioribus, lobo antico late ovalo quam lateralia subaequale; staminum 2, filamentis exsertis. antheris deltoideo-cordiformibus; staminodiis 2 minimis papilliformibus; ovario basi disco rubro annuliformi instructo, conoideo in stilum 3—4-plo longiorem attenuato; stigmate minute bilobo.

Saintpaulia amaniensis appears to be most closely related to **S. magungensis** Roberts, also from the Usambara mountains, from which species it differs in having crenate-dentate and ovate to ovate-elliptical instead of crenate orbicular leaves, two staminodes instead of three, and glandular hairs on the corolla margin. From **S. grotei** Engl., which also has crenate-dentate leaf margins and glandular hairs on the corolla margin, **S. amaniensis** differs in leaf shape and number of staminodes.

"TUNIA"

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

A good many people have written me and asked me what "Tunia" meant, so here is my story.

A good many years ago, twenty, to be exact, I was working in my flower border. The children were small then, and a neighbor child was very much interested in what I was doing. He was having quite a time. Over what, you say? Well—— he was trying to get out a mouthful of words ——Mrs. Pochurek, to be exact. The poor lad was having a time of it! It so happened that the border was edged in petunias. Friend hubby, standing by, said, "Just call her Petunia." The little boy did - - - my children did and had a merry afternoon of it. The name stuck, I have been called "Petunia" ever since. (That was that long-ago before the African violet reared it's head in my home.)

Several years ago, while talking to my brother, who is a gladiolus grower and hybridizer, I asked him about certain varieties of glads that had the name "Tunia" tacked on to them. He told me of a grower of glads in Australia who had been a petunia hybridizer, before he grew gladioli. So—— when he came into the glad field, he called his glad introductions "Tunia's" this and that.

That seemed to fit me to a T, inasmuch as I had had the nickname for so long. After due inquiry, I became "Tunia" to my violet friends.

There you have it, as simple as that!

African Violets - - -

on Display at the Convention

Ruth Dahnke, Kansas

Something new has been added to the Convention Show; a table of Arrangements. A large African violet was placed in a shadow box. A small very delicate china container held an arrangement with pink Lily of the Valley forming this outline, African violet leaves as a background and pink African violet blossoms as a focal point. A shell contained African violet leaves and flowers that followed the line of rhythm of the shell. One arrangement, a living arrangement, used ferns for the outline and an African violet plant for the focal point. Variegated Hoya leaves were used in a white container and a mass of several colors of saintpaulias at the base. On a calla lily leaf was placed a white calla lily filled with African violet flowers. We could see from behind the courtesy line that one was arranged by Hazel Becker.

The African Violet Club of New Jersey was next in line. A huge plant of Crinkles was the largest plant in the entire show. It was a perfect specimen. We are sorry not to have an individual picture to share with you, but it was taken away before we even got the name of the owner. The Delaware County of Pennsylvania African Violet Society displayed a Ruffles that was quite large. It sat on a black base and was displayed by Mrs. Howard Morris. The second largest plant in the show was labeled Topaz but is known as Sapphire to us. The leaves are nicely quilted with light medium blue flowers and a darker blue eye. The owner was Mrs. J. V. Turner. Mrs. Hazel Becker displayed Jessie and a deep blue seedling with medium green foliage. There was Norseman in its bright blue that can belong only to Norseman. Blue Warrior was there with its deep green foliage and dark blue flower. Mrs. Ralph Frye displayed Double Margaret, dark blue double flowers and scalloped leaves.

We go next to the section of the African Violet Society of Salem County, New Jersey. Everyone will remember Mrs. Neil Miller's display. Perhaps we should tell you this one too was a living arrangement. The container was a hollow log shaped rather like a canoe. It was higher at the back. Ivy grew around the edge of the log as well as a vine that is surely one of the same genus as the African violet. In this setting grew beautiful African violets with so many flowers they must enjoy their companions. From left to right: a light orchid with deep green, long, tapering leaves; next a Blue Girl; then a deep orchid with heart shaped leaves; a white one; one of the reds and Blushing Maiden. The container was almost completely hidden by the well-shaped plants that have been growing in the log for a year and a half. It was awarded the seals of first, second and third places. Neil must be quite a help to Mary with her violets, judging from

From the African Violet Society of Salem, N. J. display an arrangement by Mrs. Neil Miller.

the Miller entries. Their White Supreme had fourteen huge flowers open and many buds; we counted them. Blue Girl sat quite sedately in a Colonial container that was the companion to the one holding Pink Amazon. We will let you count the flowers on Blue Girl in the picture.

Leola Elwell displayed Heart's Desire with its waved foliage and a lot of blooms. Mrs. Jessie Lewis exhibited a most unusual variegated plant. The variegations were not only green and white but the leaves toward the center of the plant had a pink tinge. The flowers were the color of West Coast Amethyst.

We stopped long enough to see the display showing the many steps necessary to print a color picture for our magazine. The print of Norseman, by Arthur Chard that came with our December '49 issue, had six different plates to produce those colors. Large leaves from S. Grotei and a duPont variety were on the same table, but neither Giant nor Mammoth would describe their size.

The next room was reserved for the Commercial Growers. They always give us a peep into the future, as well as good varieties we do not have to put on our waiting list. It is generous of them to share their newest varieties, knowing they will have many requests that cannot be filled for many months.

Just outside the Banquet room was the display of R. A. Brown & Sons Company. The "And Company" surely stands for Mrs. Brown as she is certainly a vital part of that organization. Mrs. Brown and Bobby Jr., were both there. Their plants had been enroute for some time because of the railroad strike and did not compare with the lovely plants we saw at their greenhouses last fall in Georgia, but they did bring back the memory of the 100,000 plants they have under glass. Perhaps the one that brought most attention was

Mrs. Dahnke holding one of Ulerys new white varieties.

Rose Pink because it was something really new in pink. The flower was pink at the edge but deepened to fuschia toward the center. This one has not been released but do watch for it. Brown's have been working for more varieties in pink for some time. Mrs. Evelyn Banks is about the shade of Pink Beauty and has very large flowers. The foliage is medium green. Rosy O'Grady is a lighter shade of pink, about the same shade as Dainty Maid. The foliage is very interesting, round leaves that are quilted and red underneath. It blooms profusely. Polka Dot made her debut, but we again have to go to their greenhouses to give you the description of Polka Dot in its true beauty. The leaf is medium green, slightly quilted and rather broad, but it is the flower that really stands out. It is the color of Red Head and on the tip of each petal is a white dot. On a mature plant it is very prominent. Semi-double has medium green foliage, slightly quilted. The flower is large like most singles but is very double at the center. It has many blossoms and is a good addition to a collection of doubles. The flowers are dark blue. Moire has a purple flower that is like watered silk; the foliage is medium green.

Brown's have developed plants suitable for the window sill or for those of you who do not have space for the large plants. They are Miniatures. They could call all of them Brown's Pet because Mrs. Brown seems partial to them but they did name a miniature Blue Girl Brown's Pet. Now it has a companion, Red Pet. Blue Missy attracted a lot of attention with its deep blue flower that has pistil but no stamens. Dwarf Topaz is just like its parent Topaz, red on the underside of the leaf and a darker blue flower. Brown's Palmer violet is a miniature dark blue double. The leaf is slender yet heavy.

Next was Tinari's display. Frank and Ann not only have lovely plants but are very artistic when displaying them. The brass containers could not compete with the beautiful plants. They were arranged on tiers. At the top sat America and Helen Wilson. There was Mentor Boy again, this time Double Mentor Boy. The lovely Blue Eyes was there in Amazon form with very dark green, quilted, waxy and spooned foliage and clusters of beautiful light blue flowers. Fantasy was there too with its medium green leaf and orchid flower that has variegations of purple. Often each petal has a completely different pattern in the two colors. Mammoth Red and Mammoth Blue are just what the name implies. Red King was a good deep wine color; Sailor Girl has dark green on the leaf in contrast to the white spot, red on the underside and the flower of Sailor Boy. Blue Warrior was such a beautiful plant. Burgundy has nice girl type foliage and the flower is really Burgundy.

Left to right - Blue Eyes Supreme, America, and Helen Wilson

White Girl with orchid edge

Above - Lacy Girl

Below - No. 41 Blossom with blue star

Mrs. Jennie Spoutz' display, at first glance, made us wonder if someone had helped Nature with a paint brush. Her display was not large but certainly something new and different. Two plants of White Girl were there, but we knew they were being released. The other whites were the surprise. One plant had girl type foliage and a white flower but the sides of each petal were deep blue, forming a star across the flower. The same effect was carried out with an orchid star. Another plant was medium green foliage with a lighter green center vein and slightly spooned. The flower was white with an orchid border around each petal. Still another white had a completely white flower, and this time it was the foliage that was the surprise. The dark green leaves were red on the underside. The combination of the white flower, green and red foliage was most pleasing. Jennie told us it is one of Ulery's introductions. Lacy Girl has a deep purple flower that appears to be a perfect circle with each petal so curled at the edge it gave the impression of fringe. The leaves were smooth and the same effect edged each leaf. It did not have girl type foliage. Jennie certainly knows an unusual violet when she sees it.

Now, we literally fight our way for a peek at Fischer's display. They had a large glass showcase filled with African violets, plants on top of the case and many behind the case. Paul Rockelmann was in charge; we all felt we knew Paul after the article Regina and Warren Gottshall wrote about his work for our magazine. If you have judged Fringettes from small plants just wait until you see the mature plants. The plants were large and a mass of blooms. These plants are the result of crossing Fischer's best Hybrid Doubles with selected single seedlings. They carry the characteristic lasting quality of the doubles but are single with the yellow stamens. The adjectives frilled and wavy hardly do them justice. They are well described as to color by their names, Red Lavender, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Dark Blue with dark green foliage, Blue Lavender with the red veins on the reverse of the leaf. Pure white and that lovely shade, Pale Mauvette Lavender. The leaves as well as the flowers are fringed. Paul brought special attention to a plant placed in a Rose Bowl. The plant was two years old yet only seven inches across. The foliage was dark green and the flowers looked like little roses in a beautiful shade of light blue; very double and each flower so well shaped. It had many flowers. It does not have a name, but it looked like an old fashioned corsage, perfectly arranged.

Most of you know about Fischer's very nice doubles, including Double Margaret,

Cont. page 49

African Violets Under

Fluorescent Light

Fay Stilwell, Conn.

It has now been fifteen months since my second fluorescent light fixture was installed. As mentioned in my first article in the September, 1949, magazine, this is the same size and type as the first fixture but has three white lamps or tubes instead of the two daylight type used in my first experiment. Since having this second fix-

This picture of my plants and plant stand was taken under the three tube fixture with white type bulbs.

ture installed I have been growing test plants under each light and, as far as African violets are concerned, I can find no particular advantage in using the stronger light and have come to the conclusion that the light intensity from the fixture with the two daylight type tubes is sufficient and that faster results would be obtained by lengthening the light period rather than increasing the light intensity.

The steps on my plant stands are 14 inches apart and for the past several months both light fixtures have been hung so that the tubes are 11 inches above the top step. By keeping small plants on this top shelf, I find they will start blooming in a short time. After a few flower stalks are well started, the little plants are then moved down to the second shelf, which is 25 inches below the light tubes. The reason for this is that the light intensity on the top step appears to be too strong for the flowers and in the paler colored varieties the color looks faded. In the darker colored varieties this is not so noticeable, but in all varieties, if grown on the top step after the flowers begin to open, the flowers act as though the light hurt their eyes and they turn their faces down.

In comparing six test plants, two each of Old Lace, Dupont Lavender Pink and Bit O'Heaven which were potted up at the same time in the same soil mixture and grown on the second shelf of each stand, I can detect no difference in the shade of the flowers of Old Lace and Bit O'Heaven and only a very slight variation in leaf color, but the flowers of Dupont Lavender Pink are decidedly paler under the three tube light. I believe that the one possible advantage of the three tube light for African violets is that many will bloom more freely on the third step, 39 inches below the tube, than in the same position under the other light.

For anyone intending to use these lights solely for African violets I do not think the results warrant the additional expense of the initial cost of the three tube fixture and cost of operating same. At the time I purchased these fixtures I had to take what was available, but if I were to install additional lights, I would endeavor to get fixtures with reflectors that diffuse the light over a larger area. The reflectors on my fixtures measure 13 inches from side to side across the bottom. If the reflectors were not quite so concave but were bent so the distance between the sides were 16 to 18 inches, I believe more plants could be grown within the light radius without reducing the light intensity so that it would be detrimental to the plants.

In the picture on page 24 of the September issue, the plant on the extreme right on the second step is Bi-Color, one of my original test plants. This is a single crown plant, has been repotted once in three years, and is still blooming profusely. While the flowers are not unusually large, being only 1¾ inches in diameter, it now has twelve flower stalks each producing from ten to twelve flowers, and the mature leaves measure up to 5½ inches long by 3¾ inches in diameter. The younger plants being grown under these lights give promise of doing equally well.

The humidity where I have these lights seems to stay around 35, varying slightly with the outside atmosphere. On very cold days the temperature will go down to 58° but usually runs between 62° and 65°.

For those who might be interested in growing different varieties of plants, this type of light would not be satisfactory for plants that normally require full sunlight. This past winter I have tried to keep over small plants and cuttings that are not winter hardy to use in our garden next summer, but have not been successful excepting with those that like partial shade. Impatiens and Maidenhair Ferns seem very happy, and I believe many Begonias that are ordinarily grown as house plants will do well. Of the few that I had the room to experiment with, the rex and those requiring full shade did nicely and had good color under the daylight fixture. I tried one of my seedling Calla Begonias under the three tube fixture and it was the loveliest I have ever had, both as to foliage and flower, and the fact that the white leaves had a decided red edge showed that this light was more than ample. One tuberous begonia that was so late in starting up in the summer that it had not bloomed by frost time was brought in and simply grew very rangy, producing no flower buds at all. I tried keeping cuttings of two of the fancy-leaved Geraniums and on the top step close to the light they retained a fairly good color. A double climbing Nasturtium that will not set seed but has to be propagated by cuttings, I am not sure will even live until time to put it outside again, as it has become weak and spindling.

This is the extent of my experimenting to date, and I sincerely hope that these comments may be of help to others who would like to try growing under fluorescent lights.

Ruth Yoars Story

It was away back in mid-summer of 1932 that a farm woman crossed the fields lying between her home and that of a neighbor on a small errand, the purpose of which has been forgotten by all concerned, but the unusual outcome of that visit has been felt in all parts of the country.

In the course of the visit, a new and very unusual plant was observed. Upon asking what it was, she found a new plant which has completely changed her life and the lives of others closely linked with her. This plant was an African violet, she was told by her friends, a new and very unusual house plant, in that it was always in bloom and must be kept well watered and cozy warm, as it was a tropical plant. Upon asking where one could be procured, she was told it had come from another state but it could be started from leaves. They said, "Just put the leaf in water and forget it. When well rooted transfer it to leaf mold and in one year it will bloom." Instructions were followed, and, in due course, the plants grew, three of them, and the business was on its way! However, this was the last thing thought of by anyone connected with the transaction.

In time an entire window was given over to the collection of plants, which was very large and always in full bloom. Soon people visiting in the home and passing the window began to admire them, coming in to ask questions and remark about their beauty and how unusual they were. These people began asking to buy one of the plants when a very special gift or occasion demanded something different. They sold at 75¢ each. In a short time, other varieties were discovered and were added to the first variety as soon as they could be procured, many new at that time. Soon the many plants became a problem in the home, it becoming apparent that it was retreat or go forward. Because of the real affection held for them, it was decided to go forward.

She began writing to other growers and from them received encouragement to prepare a room 16' x 38'. This house had been a poultry house that had stood idle for several years. The decision to use this house was not so much by choice as it was that it was impossible to get heat for a glass house at that time. This house was glassed all around with double glass and thoroughly insulated, benches were built and a circulating coal burning heater installed. This was in the fall of 1946.

This house was filled with many new varieties under propagation that winter. In the spring a price list of 14 varieties was mailed to a few hundred people. There was such a response to this list that it was resolved to build another house. In the spring of 1947, it was necessary to build a regular room, which was glassed and insulated as before; this room was 18' x 76' and heated with another heater. These stoves did a very good job of heating these houses.

In the course of time, due to the large demand for other plants as well as the violets, it was decided to add a glass house, which was done in the summer of 1949. In this house may be found many unusual plants, again the purpose being mainly to carry odd and rare plants that are not found in the regular greenhouse; many new ones are being added as they become available.

Before the glass house was added, the main need seemed to be space for propagating plants. There was space enough in the second house, if it could be utilized for the African violets and the other plants that take the same treatment. The plants demanding sun and cooler temperature were provided for in the sun house, this being accomplished by installing heat

View of one of the glass houses

Mrs. Yoars and some of her houseplants

and plumbing, arranged to make propagating tables that take care of all needs in this line.

To accomplish this, a boiler room was added. This room has a corner for sterilizing soil and pots. The job of packing is also taken care of in this room. The heat is an oil burning hot water plant entirely automatic. There is also an abundant supply of hot water for all watering where warm water is needed. The outcome of it all is that the second house is double-decked and the glass house is triple-decked through the center and double-decked on the sides, giving ample space for raising cuttings and seeds.

The cross-breeding and hybridizing of plants has brought out some lovely things that will be registered in the spring. Some have been put on the market, and new ones will follow in the spring and summer. The nursery has become a place for people to come from everywhere to admire the thousands of plants and have a friendly visit.

There is a guest book that every new visitor is asked to sign; in this way the signer is on the mailing list, as well as the many fine visits they recall. In this register may be found addresses from almost every state in the Union and Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia. Many who have visited the place have missed this register, as the idea was not put into action until the spring of 1949.

Before the first year was up, plants had been shipped to almost every state in the Union, and since then, the shipping has included Alaska, Canada and Puerto Rico. The number of shipments that have met with damage in shipping is remarkably small, due to the fact that every shipment is packed with greatest care and sent fully insured.

(Upon being asked what part she liked best, Mrs. Yoars said, "The pleasure of working with the plants and seeing them grow and bloom, and the pleasure of learning and conquering each new problem that may arise. We are fortunate to have loyal and faithful helpers in every part of our business, ready to take tasks and make every part of our work easier. We owe our helpers a vote of thanks for their splendid loyalty and helpfulness.")

From the collection of Mrs. A. H. Farnham

Photo by Robin

TRICHOSPORUM

(Greek meaning "hair-seed")

Louise F. Smouse, S. C.

Indeed this Trichosporum cousin of our African violet is well called "hair seed." When opening a precious packet of these seed you feel you have received a package of combings from some bronze locks.

These seed mature under African violet culture to free-flowering, woody plants, often climbing on trees in their native India, Malaya and East Asia. Ideal to greenhouse culture in hanging baskets lined with moss, through which the plants emerge to cover the basket, or grown in pots in a cozy window. They prefer loose, open fibrous soil and may be propagated very easily by stem cuttings of two leaves and a joint or the tip end of a spray. Root in peat and vermiculite in the same manner as for saintpaulias. They grow rapidly and transplant without difficulty. Trichosporum is an ideal companion for your African violets.

Four cultivated varieties are:

T. pulchrum, trailing with short petioled, broadly ovate, fleshy leaves, small toothed, with sunken veins. The two lipped tubular flowers of brilliant scarlet with yellow throat appear in clusters.

T. lobbianum which differs little from the above has narrower leaves downy corolla twice as long with purple downy calyx.

T. marmoratum or zebrina has oblong leaves to three and one half inches, reddish purple beneath with green flowers, spotted brown.

T. boschianum has oval leaves and scarlet flowers two inches long.

Success Story

Viola M. Roets, Wis.

I have had African violet plants for the past eleven years. My original plants, two, to be exact, were gifts and came from a florist. In time, after quite a battle to get them to bloom, I divided them, gave some away and kept one of the originals until last fall when I tossed it out and purchased a new plant.

It had never occurred to me to try to propagate them, as I didn't know anyone doing such fascinating work and thought only botanists and scientists performed such intricate accomplishments. That is -- until the spring of 1948.

I went out on the Cancer Fund drive and two of the ladies I called on had beautiful violet plants. They also had leaves in water sitting about. Upon inquiring, they told me that this was a means of rooting the leaves, thus augmenting their collection and maintaining a supply of nice young plants. I guess the admiration for their "astounding achievements" (to me at least) must have shown in my face, for both of these ladies offered me leaves and suggested that I try to do likewise. I was thrilled and carefully carried them home, placed them in pots of soil not even daring to hope I could eventually obtain as lovely a plant as theirs. Several leaves died off, but one remained in each pot and one morning along in the summer, I discovered tiny leaves peaking thru the ground. What a thrill! By Thanksgiving one of the plants came into bloom and shortly thereafter the other rewarded me with blossoms. One was Ionantha, the other variety I do not know. They bloomed continuously until mid-summer and Ionantha had 45 blossoms during its last blooming period in August. As for size, I modestly confess my plants excelled those of the two dear ladies.

That was the beginning! I acquired leaves of other named varieties and began propagating, using five different methods and had almost 100% success, losing perhaps a half dozen leaves at the most. I also kept a detailed record on each variety. By August, I had over 125 plants in various stages of growth with over 85 as a result

of my own propagating methods, and a total of twenty-six varieties.

On March 31st, I received twenty-four little plants. They grew beautifully for exactly two months or until the first of June. Then I noticed on a Double Duchess that the crown was beginning to get very hard to the touch, the leaves twisted and stunted in growth and extremely hairy, with a dark red color on the under side. As I was brushing the leaves regularly, this condition gradually spread to a few more and then a few more.

Having Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book on African violets, I feared mite so purchased a lens but could discern nothing.

Making a trip to Northern Wisconsin and having read in our Wisconsin Horticulture Magazine that Mrs. Glenn Fisher's African violet collection was being "viewed" by Garden Club members in that vicinity, I wrote Mrs. Fisher asking permission to stop and see her collection as we were going thru her city. She graciously sent me directions to her home and I saw her beautiful plants and more than I dreamed existed.

During our visit I told her of my concern and asked if she knew or had had a similar experience. She hadn't and had never seen mite infestation. She told me about the African Violet Society and their Homing Pigeons, neither of which I was aware of, and gave me Mr.Gottshall's address and suggested that I join the Society.

Returning home within a few days, I found more plants showing the same distortion. The fumigating bath using Naphthalene flakes and moth balls proved to be completely disastrous to four plants. I was getting discouraged. Toward the end of the month, Mrs. Fisher paid me a most welcome visit and looked at my plants. She thought they looked too clean for mite but that it possibly was a soil deficiency and suggested repotting. Which I did.

It was then I decided to join the Society. Sending my check to Mr. Gottshall I took the opportunity to relate my troubles. He wrote back saying it sounded like mite but also suggested the possibility of soil deficiency or wrong exposure.

Upon receipt of my first issue of the African Violet Society Magazine, I avidly read every word in it and Eloise Dysart's article on Fungus intrigued me and decided her descriptions were comparable to the ailment of my violets. So End-O-Pest was purchased and all plants were dusted once a week. Some of the crowns softened up and where leaves had been removed new crowns began to form, but not much progress was noted and the feeling was apparent that the solution had not been reached.

Writing Mrs. Radtke to be placed in a Pigeon Group I again related my story and she too said it sounded like mite and suggested Sodium Selenate.

Then I wrote Mrs. Wright for back issues of the magazine and retold my tale of woe and asked if I could use N.N.O.R. and End-O-Pest together. You can readily see I was desperate and wrote everyone whose address was obtainable, as over sixty-five plants were now affected. I read everything I could lay my hands on and with the reading of each article the pictures and descriptions always appeared identical with the ailment of my plants, until I was so confused I did not know what to think. All the while inwardly hoping that I might be able to settle for something far less disastrous than the dreaded mite.

Mrs. Wright warned against the use of N.N.O.R. and End-O-Pest together and suggested that I wash the End-O-Pest off and spray with N.N.O.R. every ten days for three times. wait a month and repeat the schedule. Here again new difficulties presented themselves as no one locally had ever heard of N.N.O.R. Upon seeing an advertisement in the magazine I sent for some and started spraying.

In August, I contacted the office of our State Entomologist at Madison. He wasn't in, but I made an appointment to meet him the following week in Milwaukee. He just looked at my plants and said it was mite. All this time I wasn't satisfied that I had mite -- I wanted to see them for myself. He also told me the name of the best Research Director on African Violets in our State and where I could locate him. Upon calling long distance was informed that he had just left on a two week's vacation. So I patiently waited for another two weeks and called again. He graciously granted me audience the following day, August 31st. I packed up several plants and by this time my Ionantha was getting droopy and sick-looking so I took it along too.

Reaching my destination after a forty mile drive I was ushered into a large laboratory. Just looking at the plants my "Research Man" told me it definitely was mite. I felt sunk -- but would have to face it. The gentlemen examined all the plants under glass but couldn't locate any, as the mite does not like the daylight so usually hides deep in the crown or bud during the day but comes out to feed at night. (This is the reason that spraying at dusk or later is most beneficial).

Rather than tear one of my plants apart he got one of his own which was infested and opened a blossom and also cut a fresh bud in two with a razor blade. Here I saw my first mite. They were very plump and after being prodded became agitated and ran around furiously trying to find a place to hide. They had a whitish color and a very glassy appearance blending in with the plant tissue which makes them difficult to see. With the use of extra lights the mite in the larvae sac or acquiescent stage was pointed

out to me. This is one of the later stages of development and also the resting stage. The mite reaches this period of its growth within about seventy-two hours -- hatching, eating, then resting, then eating again until reaching adult stage. While in the acquiescent stage of development, they appear as a round glassy mound or dot. All this activity on a very minute inner portion of plant tissue -- many-many groups of glassy mounds and the adults dashing in all directions. The eggs couldn't be distinguished very well, but there was no question or doubt about the other stages as they were very discernible.

It was suggested that I continue spraying with N.N.O.R. (¼ teaspoon to 1 quart of warm water) as he said it is without a doubt one of our best sprays made. However, I was to change my spraying schedule of every ten days to not less than once every four days for four times, then waiting two or three weeks and repeat this operation until absolutely sure all the mites were killed. It is a slow process but with spraying every four days one gets those mites which were in the acquiescent stage during the last spraying. Also to spray just the crown, being sure to get solution in deep and around the tight centers.

As a last resort, one can use Sodium Selenate but, this plantsman doesn't like to use it because of its extremely toxic effect on all animal life -- it being known that Sodium Selenate remains in the soil for as long a time as seven years retaining its toxic effect. If such treated soil is carelessly thrown out in the garden its infective agents could show up in such top-grown vegetables as cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts and also tomatoes. He also pointed out that if it got in the pastures or into feeds fed to cattle the cows could absorb it and pass it on to people through their milk. So he says he does not like to recommend the use of this material to the public, as one can readily see its careless handling might introduce new virus infections on a large scale, as it is absorbed by the human system.

I felt much better after this enlightening afternoon spent in a very able plantsman's laboratory. I now definitely knew my plants had mite and what procedure to follow. It was a challenge and I accepted it as such.

The above outlined treatment was followed in full for one complete cycle. The plants responded beautifully. In some cases where the leaves were hard and bunched so tightly together that the spray solution could not penetrate I removed as many of the leaves as was necessary to facilitate new growth. The leaves and petioles will grow larger and longer but distortion of leaves is permanent and petioles retain their thickness, and if injury has been severe they will remain quite short.

After waiting but two weeks I followed the first spraying treatment with just one more spraying as we were leaving for a month's vacation to the West Coast the latter part of September.

All of my plants, 150 by this time, had to be moved to my mother's home in another town. Two trips by car were required plus a great deal of careful packing. Mother gave them splendid care, keeping them in a bedroom with one east and one south window. They were crowded, but she didn't overwater and upon my return I didn't recognize them. The plants were looking fine with twelve in bloom. The centers had grown out of many of them and the new growth was so extensive that it took me a couple of days to become acquainted with my little convalescents.

After bringing them home, they all received a good bath and were placed in east, south and west windows. All but nine plants have fully recovered. Being very busy the month of November catching up with work in my rather large perennial border, I sprayed occasionally but didn't follow the schedule and these stubborn ones still have mite. At this time, December 11th, they are getting a regular course of treatment and are beginning to show good results so have no fear of not being able to eliminate these unwanted guests I have been entertaining since June 1st.

The rest of the plants are beautiful. With a few exceptions, all distorted growth has been removed, new growth is progressing splendidly, fifteen varieties are in bloom with nineteen others in full bud. These are all plants started this year. At this time I have forty-four varieties and over 200 plants in various stages of growth. And I am happy.

The dreaded mite holds no terrors for me anymore!

MRS. ROETS

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

An invitation is here by extended to Mrs. Roets to write for us the final chapter of this determined battle against the troublesome Cyclamen mite. Because of the length of time the story has been in the process of getting published in the magazine it is believed that more valuable information may have been gathered in the keeping of her collection free of mite.

-Editor

Variegation is Still a Mystery

Annette Scully, Wyo.

The information used in this article has been recently obtained from Universities, amateur African violet growers, and Robin friends from different parts of the country, in hopes of obtaining the latest and most accurate information on "Variegation in African violets." My reason for inquiring about this information was to find out if it is a genetic fact that a variegated violet does not propagate true in the first clonal vegetative propagation, but does propagate variegated in the second clonal propagation.

Apparently very little research work has been done on variegation in African violets. It could be a very interesting field to work in if one has the time, patience, and is fortunate enough to have the true variegated stock to experiment with. I would like to thank all the people who were kind enough to furnish this material to make up this article, and I hope it will be as interesting to the members of the African Violet Society and their friends, as it has been for me to write it.

The coloring factors and structure of a normal green leaf are explained in the following paragraph. Taken from the book "Plant Magic", Author, James P. Haworth.

"The Plant's Food Supply. Green leaves are the food factories of plants. Since sunlight is so essential, plant leaves are nearly always very thin, so as to expose as much surface as possible to the light. The top and bottom of the leaf are composed of thin layers of waterproof cells called the epidermis, just like the skin around the stem. Top and bottom are identical except that there are numerous breathing pores or minute openings scattered throughout the bottom skin. These little pores have at their entrance, a pair of guard cells shaped like tiny new moons whose duty it is to regulate the size of orifice, so as to govern the amount of air that can enter or leave the little openings; by closing the pores in dry seasons, they can help prevent the loss of moisture. Between the two leaf surfaces all of the cells except those on the vein system are food factories. These factory cells contain chlorophyll, in the form of fifteen or more minute, round bodies called chloroplast in each cell. The green color of leaves is due to these pigmented bodies."

"The chloroplast is perhaps the most wonderful of all natural creations. At least, it is the most essential, for without it, there could be no plant, animal or human life on this planet. It is doubtful if life could survive more than a few months if this green substance should suddenly cease to exist. There is nothing else in nature and certainly nothing that man has invented that can take inert, inorganic gases from the air, moisture and sunlight, mix them and produce sugars."

In contrast to the above paragraph, the definition and explanation of variegation in species and varieties of plants except African violets is given below; and is taken from "Cyclopedia of American Horticulture", by L. H. Bailey. I would like to quote part of the letter received from the author in regard to using this information, "You must bear in mind that the article of variegation was written many years ago and should be compared with more up to date authorities."

"(Variegation). This term is usually applied to a class of variation, especially in leaf coloration, in which the leaves become striped, banded, spotted, blotched, etc., with yellow, white, red and various other colors in connection with the normal green of other portions of the leaves. In the case of yellow and white variegation the term albinism is sometimes used, especially when the plants are largely marked with white and yellow. True variegation may be distinguished from ordinary colorations, bleaching, chlorosis, etc., by the fact that the colored areas are usually quite sharply defined. They do not gradually blend into each other, but have definite boundaries. Cells in the variegated areas are found as a rule, to contain the same chlorophyll bodies (chromatophores) as the ordinary green cells of the plant. However, in the variegated parts the green color is not developed and the chromatophores are often smaller, or are somewhat swelled and vacuolate. In the case of chlorosis, due to the lack of iron, or yellowing due to the lack of light, a leaf will quickly develop its normal color if given the proper conditions. This is not the case, however, in variegated leaves. While the intensity of whatever color the chromatophores may have can be varied by light and food, a variegated cell can never be changed by these means to a normal cell. The white parts of variegated leaves often have in their cells, small

bodies which resemble the bodies of chloroplast but are unable to develop chlorophyll."

"The granules (chromatophores) appear to have lost entirely, in many cases, the power to make starch and sugar from the carbonic acid gas in the air. In practically all cases, however, when the chromatophores are not destroyed, they retain the power to convert sugar into starch and they thus store up starch in their tissues from the sugar manufactured by the healthy cells of the leaf."

"White or albino variegation is, of course, due to a lack of any coloring in the chromatophores, and sometimes to the entire absence of these bodies. The cells seem to have lost completely the power of making chlorophyll. These albicant variegations are to be looked upon as the more extreme forms of variegation, and usually arise through a feeble or atrophied condition of the plant. Seedlings raised from parents both of which are variegated in this way are usually weak. High feeding and favorable conditions of growth, while they will not cause a variegated plant to return to its normal condition, will often stimulate the development of a green sheet that takes most of the nourishment, and thus causes the starvation and disappearance of the albicant parts."

"Variegated plants or parts of plants are usually of slower growth and smaller than green plants of the same variety or the green parts of the same plant."

Many African Violet Growers have informed me it is almost impossible to root a variegated leaf. "If you are successful in rooting one, the resulting plantlets will be totally green." Others wrote and said, "Root a variegated leaf with a petiole an inch long, more or less; and the little plants appearing at the base of the petiole will be green. When these small plants are large enough to remove leaves, root them and the resulting plantlets, or second generation offsprings, will be variegated." One of the questions to the people I wrote to was why a variegated African violet skips its variegation in the first generation, and then appears in the propagation of the second generation. I will quote some of the answers I received.

Courtesy of E. B. Risley, University of New Hampshire. "One cannot correctly refer to new plants propagated vegetatively from leaf cuttings as being a new or second generation. New generations can come about only through the production and germination of seeds by a plant. The essential difference is that the new plants developed from cuttings must have the same genetic or chromosome makeup as the parent plant. We call the parent plant plus all of its vegetative offsprings a clon, and no normal variations will occur in such a group of plants. By contrast, every new plant from a seed will be different from the parent plant, because it contains hereditary elements from both parents. Therefore, when you speak of the case where small green plants have

sprung from variegated leaves vegetatively and in turn variegated plants developed vegetatively from the green ones in the second clonal propagation, such an occurrence absolutely cannot be a case of a genetic factor for variegation, skipping generations; the green plant in this case, if given different cultural treatment would undoubtedly have displayed some degree of variegation. We have the same condition in Geranium variety (Beckwith Pride), and in both the white & green and white & red variegated Wandering Jew (Tradescantia Fluminensis). With these plants, the relative size of the white areas on the leaves increases in direct proportion to the degree of starvation to which the plant is submitted. A cutting taken from a nearly-white plant will produce all green leaves on the new plants, and this plant will stay nearly all green until it is allowed to become pot bound or starved somewhat. One further point to bring out is that this does not mean that any green-leaved African violet can be made to have variegations just by starving it . . . Only those individuals or clons having the proper genetic makeup will do this. All the plants developed from a variegated leaf plant by leaf cutting will have variegated leaves actually or potentially."

Courtesy of Arthur Bing, Assistant Professor at Cornell University. "If the condition exists as you describe it, there is no ready explanation. With only a few plants the results you describe can occur by chance alone, but if any number of plants were involved there is no genetical explanation as yet. If the variegations were caused by a virus, it would be possible to get virus free, green plants, which were reinfected in the next clonal generation. As the violets are asexually reproduced, a few changes will show up here and there, but the changes in (Blue Girl) are as yet unexplainable."

Courtesy of Dr. Louis Otto Kunkel, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. "To begin with, I would like to say that I have observed only one kind of variegation in African violets. The variegation with which I am familiar consists in a great variety of chlorotic or necrotic ringspot-type markings on the leaves and petioles. I have not seen or experimented with the variety Blue Girl. As you no doubt know, many different ringspot diseases of plants are caused by viruses and can be transmitted from plant to plant by rubbing juice from leaves of diseased plants over the leaves of healthy plants. It was through the great similarity in the

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Photo by Ross Hahn

Plant from the collection of Mrs. Hahn

Do You REMEMBER?

Florence Foltz, Pa.

Do you remember the actual beginning of the mess your house is in right now, or was in just before your greenhouse was completed? And do you sometimes wonder what it would be like to have nothing to do but the routine housework which used to seem like a big job? I'm sure we all have those moments, but I wonder how many would actually be happy if they were suddenly carried back to the days when they weren't sure if the name of that plant, which was a gift from a Capsule Sister, was AFRICAN violet or MEXICAN violet. That was the plant that maybe for days was kept submerged in so much water that the roots developed fins. It was the plant that on other occasions was dry for such long periods that it thought you had moved to the desert. But it grew, and bloomed all the time. At that time you weren't too pleased with its longevity, - because you didn't care for house plants; you much preferred to raise your flowers outside.

Then, after five years or more, during which time you kept the violet, African or Mexican, you didn't much care which, because it wouldn't die, do you remember reading that magazine article and learning that there was more than one variety of AFRICAN violet? Perhaps you would like to forget that you wrote to the author of the article and asked where you might purchase a pink violet.

In quick succession there was the acquisition of numerous price lists, and a blank to join the newly formed National African Violet Society. Do you remember how thrilled you were with that first membership card, and how excited you were a few weeks later when the first copy of the Magazine arrived? The "Homing Pigeon" department aroused your curiosity and after several months you mustered up the courage to write to Elsie Freed and ask what it was all about. In about six weeks you found out, - you were in a pigeon with nine other ladies from all over the United States, and though you didn't realize it then, it was the beginning of many lovely friendships.

In the first Pigeon remember how surprised you were to learn that there were nearly 100 named varieties and how pleased you were that you had one variety which none of the others had? (It later turned out to be a variety that had "forty-leven" duplicates.) Being possessed of a big heart you offered to trade leaves, and so it went. Before long your 19 varieties had become 45, and you knew the source of every leaf. "This one came from Michigan, that from Tennessee, and this plant came all the way from Wyoming without a single broken leaf", were statements made quite as frequently as, "Good morning, how are you today?"

After that, things in your "Violet Life" happened so fast it was hard to remember them all, but could you ever forget the time your first seedlings bloomed? They were truly super, and looked better to you than any plants you had seen in your travels; but -- you suddenly remembered you have never traveled very far. So you decided to test them on your small public by placing them among named varieties on your windows. Remember the new hat that replaced the too small old one, after one customer after another would point out a seedling with, "That one is different!"

It has been the same story for many of us: - long hours of work mixing soil, scrubbing pots, dividing plants, separating babies and cleaning up the resultant mess (which inevitably happens at our house).

Do you envy the woman who has time to get dressed up and go down town every afternoon? Do you miss having a perennially clean house? Would you, if it were possible, go back to the old life without violets and the friends they have brought you? Would I? - - - - - - - I'll keep my violets.

YOUR INVITATION TO DAYTON

The Dayton Ohio and the Richmond, Indiana Societies wish to extend to all members of the African Violet Society of America a cordial invitation to attend the 1951 Meeting to be held April 26, 27, and 28, with headquarters in the Dayton Biltmore Hotel. There will be plenty of African violets on display, excellent speakers on violet problems, delicious food, and a good time for everyone.

Nelle Berst, Convention Chairman
Mary Mutchner, Asst. Chairman
434 Williams Street
Dayton 7, Ohio

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

THE HOMING PIGEON SPEAKS

So what!! If one or two die--now and then--
Just get some leaves and try again.
Then write to us and let us know,
Just what you've done to make them grow.

Clara Ley, Pa., Unit 63

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS IN WHICH AFRICAN VIOLETS CAN PLAY A BIG PART

If any of you have a group of Cub Scouts -- start them on a project of raising African violets. The first thing the boys do when they meet -- is to see if their leaf has shown any more growth and which has grown the most. Gave them each leaves of Blue Boy --- lots of fun.

Mrs. D. R. Allard, Calif., Unit 84

I have started a kind of project among the children who live in my neighborhood. I have given each of them a young plant (in a painted can). They are all very much interested in them and are having great success.

Irene Russell, N. C., Unit 46

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT!

½ oz. of vinegar to 1 gal. of water used every six weeks is good to counteract the affects of alkaline water. Plants will

VIOLET BERRY

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

show increased vigor and better color -- also more blossoms.

Katherine Rhodes, Ohio, Unit 23

If I run short of rain water -- this is what I do: to each 4 gallons of tap water add 1 oz. of Sal Soda and fill a large wash tub. Then let stand a week, and all the hardness is taken out of it.

Inez Kelley, Mich., Unit 70

I put my two white violets in the sun keeping a close watch on them and right away they started new leaves in the crown, and one has been blooming for three weeks. Had not bloomed since last February and had rested all summer.

Belle Anderton, Tenn., Unit 68

I made pans of tin foil to set pots in on the shelf instead of using pans.

Lucile Paton, Miss., Unit 64

I made a little greenhouse of 6" x 8" window panes, fastened together with adhesive tape. I set it in a pan in a south window. I put several small plants that would not grow in this greenhouse. Now they are doing fine.

Edith Sargeant, Ohio, Unit 64

When I find one of my plants getting "wobbly", I take it out of the soil, carefully washing all soil from the roots with warm water. If there are no long, healthy looking roots, I take off several lower leaves and put it a small glass bowl of water, leaving until the bowl gets a good supply of roots in it. If there are several long ones but not enough to really hold the plant steady, I still take off several leaves but put it in a new soil mixture, making an opening in soil in center which I fill in with vermiculite. By taking off a number of leaves it balances the fewer roots. I have two rooting that way at present.

Helen McMahon, Ohio, Unit 61

I have found that, if you place a leaf in water for about four days and let it draw the water up into the petiole, then shift it to vermiculite, with the leaf covered by a glass, it will remain crisp and root very quickly.

Alicia Stith, Ky. Unit 68

It isn't a particular light or the pot, ('tho I prefer clay ones), it isn't a certain

recipe for soil mixture or type of fertilizer -- but just a good combination of these -- no one alone works miracles. A plant can take lots of hot sun if it is accustomed to it and not become sunburned, but its leaves will look quite coarse although it blooms heavily. My prettiest plants are getting no direct sun and they are blooming nicely. Plants bloom most quickly in small pots for me -- I then shift them to larger ones and can almost see them grow as they bloom. From several experiences, I think that a little shock is sometimes good for plants and does produce bloom. My most interesting experience -- after a year of experimenting, I stuck a Sapphire plant into the refrigerator for 4 min., forgot it for more than 6 minutes! It soon began to bloom. One morning I went out to greet my violets first thing and see if anything new had developed -- I picked up Sapphire to marvel at her beauty and in my sleepy state let her fall about 5 feet onto a concrete floor just smashing the pot. Luckily it was bone dry and only broke one leaf, slightly damaging another. I quickly repotted it so no one could chide me for my awkwardness. That has been about six weeks ago, and now it is blooming profusely and the leaves have grown to enormity.

Mr. Howard J. Morrell, Tenn., Unit 99

It is possible you might be interested in an experiment I made on some small violets that turned a sickly white but seemed to be determined to grow a little and stay alive. I felt so bad thinking of the effort they were making that I went to the florist here and found only a very young man working in the greenhouse. Asking him about what to do -- he told me that he had some sulphate of iron and to use 1 teaspoon to a quart of water, but not how often to use it. So I used it once a week and not only did the plants perk up but the new leaves were quite green and also the old white leaves in many cases turned green too. And now most of the plants treated are in bud and doing well.

Vera D. Hardman, Wyo., Unit 4

Could you persuade those people introducing the new Species of African violets to give us the key to the pronunciation of each? We're not all language experts.

Miss Anna Rehm, Ohio, Unit 10

A friend removed the fungi formation on the outside of the pots by mixing one part clorox and fifty parts water and stood the pot in this solution up to the rim for 10 min.

Esther Schadewald, Pa., Unit 3

GLADYS CANNER

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

If you have a leaf that seems to be rotting, sprinkle some fleur sulphur on it and it will heal the scar and you won't lose the leaf. Also it has been tried -- to make a leaf do double duty, cut down the middle of center rib and sprinkle with sulphur so all fresh cuts will completely heal and both will propagate nicely for you.

Phyllis Ferrall, Mich., Unit 3

A newer method I have worked out for labeling rooting leaves. I found it so easy to get labels mixed or lost, with a constant increase in plants I could not identify until in bloom -- a great nuisance. I use vermiculite in chicken feeder pans (after applying liquid solder to make the corners watertight). I stretch a stout cord from end to end of pan and tie it in an upper hole. Then with strips of adhesive tape I put across the pan from side to side, eleven strips (pans are 36 inches long). This divides each pan into 24 squares. I insert a leaf in each square and stick a split wooden label naming the variety in each square. This gives every leaf plenty of room and I have not yet had a label misplaced.

Margaret Darr, Tenn., Unit 10

Do not bring cut flowers in from outside and place near African violets. Do not handle violets after handling delphinium or begonias or geraniums, as you might carry cyclamen mite from them. Gasses will cause bud drop. It's the ethelene in the gas that does the harm—so 'tis said. A bowl of apples which have started to rot, set near a bouquet of flowers will cause the flowers to wilt in a short time. The ethelene gas passed from the apples does the harm. This might be a good thing to remember in our homes where we have African Violets.

Betha Human, N. Y., Unit 66

Use NNOR in water when watering — helps keep down springtails.

Mrs. Ray Guilfoyle, Mich., Unit 44

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Notes from the . . .
GOLDEN STATE

Carolyn K. Rector, Calif.

If you have thought of California mostly as the source of movies and scandals, you should have come with us as we prowled among the African violet fanciers. We found so many fine new California violets that we cannot write about them all, but we will mention a few we found very attractive.

We took our camera to the home of Mrs. Clarissa Harris, but the smog was so bad that day our picture turned out too poor to print. However, it did not prevent our admiring her new violet, Marine Supreme. Picture to yourself a gorgeous plant, with large plushy leaves of a medium dark green, and simply enormous blue velvet flowers, glistening with diamond dust! And it isn't "just like Mrs. Boles" either. We have Mrs. Boles, ourselves, and this is quite different, a true supreme, and we predict that it will cause a sensation wherever it is shown.

An "almost" neighbor of ours, Mrs. Rubie Sharon of Redondo, has come up with a plant which made us sit up and beg for a leaf. A beautiful violet of upright growth, and leaves of medium green, of a peculiar shape, and a lovely blossom. which, for want of a better word, we decided to call a watermelon pink. It is free-blooming, and we feel sure it will be very popular as soon as it is better known.

Did you know that the sensational Lady Geneva originated in California? It really is a honey, and we are not being paid for saying so, either. We prize it as one of the finest in our collection.

Something very new is Jo-Li-An, grown by Mrs. Mary Morter of Lomita. Quite different from anything else we have seen so far. A very compact-growing plant, which forms a perfect rosette, and so far has not produced a single sucker to annoy the grower, with medium green leaves, and clear blue flowers. But listen to this: every flower has six petals, all the same size and perfectly round. At first the flower was a puzzle, — "What makes it look so odd?" we said, and then it dawned on us that not a single flower had any stamens. This complete absence of stamens gives it a very distinctive appearance.

We have not been able to find out much about Wonder Star, except that it is said to have originated in California. When it was introduced last spring it immediately became very popular. The light violet flowers are two-toned, but unlike most Bi-colors, the two tones appear in all five petals, in a ray effect.

Morning Star is somewhat the same type, but in two shades of medium light blue. The ray effect however, is more pronounced in some flowers than in others, and varies somewhat according to the light in which it is grown.

At the August 1949 show in Long Beach, Mr. Harvey Cox showed Ida Blue,

Mrs. Rector and "Jo-li-an"

Officers of Los Angeles Club .

The collection of

Mrs. Emily Moorefield of Long Beach

which attracted a great deal of attention. But we particularly like his Gorgeous Gal, which we think is very well-named, with "Girl" leaves and gorgeous blooms. Mr. Cox's seedling, Jack Frost, immediately caused us to be guilty of the sin of covetousness! An ethereal looking little dwarf, a perfect rosette type, with small leaves of pale grey green, heavily frosted to a silvery effect, with white backs and pink stems. We have never seen anything like it.

A little farther north of us we have an enthusiastic violet fan, Mrs. Constance Hansen of Lafayette. She has produced quite a few new varieties. For instance, Forgetmenot, a rosette type, with light green leaves and flowers a shade lighter than Blue Eyes. This is a very individual and popular plant.

Also her California Periwinkle, with lovely big dark velvet leaves, and large clear blue flowers.

Moonbeam is a white violet, and is quite different from White Lady, with long heart-shaped leaves, and from six to nine flowers on a stem.

Maroon Brocade is a bicolor in two shades of red violet, with medium green leaves on rather long stems.

We like Mrs. Hansen's Larkspur, new double, in a lovely shade of blue violet, with very short stems. The leaves grow in a close rosette, and the flowers form a crown of bloom just above them.

Her Rosebud is also a double, red-violet in color, and often has extra inner petals in the flower. It is quite new and distinctive.

Newest of all is her Blue Rosette, very beautiful and distinctive flower, large, very double, medium blue. The foliage is also quite different, with long, shiny, pointed leaves.

There are others, but we have mentioned enough, we think, to prove our point!

Mrs. Harris Marine a product of cross pollination

MRS. ST. JOHN ATTENDS . . .

The Convention

R.E.MEMBERTHIS

(This is for fun, too — Editor)

Mrs. St. John was in a frenzied dither. Two weeks hence she was to depart for the Annual Convention of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated. She had existed solely for the past year in anticipation of this one sublime event. Attend it she would, even if she had to walk! To avoid this drastic action she decided to do something to relieve the burden on the family purse. "What would it be?"

"Yes, a pre-Mother's Day violet sale would be just the thing." After all, she kept telling herself, "Now was the time to turn them into cash . . . " This idea was agreed to by The Ardent Collector (who by now was such a bosom friend of the family that she was identified as Mrs. Constant Leech). This latter lady offered to assist with the sale.

Unfortunately, Mrs. St. John did not do as well with the venture as was possible, for Mrs. Leech arrived bright and early the day of the sale with 7 packing boxes crammed full of small plants of her own in 2 inch pots. "I didn't see any sense in my spending money to advertise after you had spent yours, so I brought my plants along in case you should run out."

Also unfortunately, Mrs. St. John insisted on being completely honest, but as her helper had no such qualms, she naturally had "just one small plant" of any new and rare variety inquired for. Her method was a bit complicated, but it worked beautifully on all the prospects who wanted to get the "jump on her neighbor". Whenever a variety was called for, Constant Leech consulted a little black book, remarked "Oh, yes. Number 16", and immediately scanned the rims of her pots for the desired number. There being no labels and, the fact that the plants were so very small, it was quite possible to sell-off all her Neptunes for anything requiring dark foliage, the Mentor Boys for anything requiring light foliage; and Orchid Beauties for anything requiring, in the future, red or orchid blossoms. Of course there was always the old standby to fall back upon . . . "My goodness, your plant must have sported!"

Be all this as it may - the time for departure was arriving. Mrs. Meeker had phoned the previous evening to advise that " 'deed I'm not going away and leave all this good Mother's Day business behind. I'm going to stay right here and keep a finger in the pie." Mrs. St. John had just finished packing her bag and went to get the large hatbox that was to be the receptacle for the huge and lovely seedling that she was taking to exhibit and introduce. The telephone rang. It was Mr. Leech to advise that most unfortunately(?) Constant had just fallen down the steps and may have broken her left leg. Consequently she would be unable to accompany Mrs. St. John to Philadelphia . . . "Would Mrs. St. John carry Mrs. Leech's seedlings to the exhibit for her? She had only 8 large plants. No? Well how ungrateful after all Constant Leech had done for her!"

Mrs. St. John shed a tear, out of propriety, heaved a sigh, out of relief and brought the hatbox. The beauteous seedling, measuring 18 inches across, could just be wedged into the box with reams of tissue around the pot to keep it from shifting. A taxi was called and Mrs. St. John was off to make her appearance at the Annual Convention.

The trip would have been uneventful, except that somewhere along the line, Ima Chatterton boarded the train and, catching sight of Mrs. St. John, bored her with discourses on how many new varieties she

had, the fact that all her plants had sported; and everything she had seen, or expected to see, turned out to be exactly like one of her own seedlings (six of which were in an orange crate and deposited in the baggage compartment at the rear of the coach).

Arriving at the hotel Mrs. St. John permitted the porter to take her bag, but, nursing the seedling on her lap for the entire trip she did not intend to risk the precious thing to the carelessness of such nonchalant and uneducated hands as porters generally possess. Wrapping her arms tenderly around the hatbox she proceeded to mount the steps to the lobby in the wake of the "careless" porter. Mrs. St. John missed the top step - Mrs. St. John landed kerplunk, flat on top of the box! The pot hurt her midriff, the fall hurt her pride, and her landing hurt the plant beyond recognition . . .

"Madam!" the porter shouted in alarm.

"It's quite alright", she replied with effort between gasps to regain her breath knocked out due to violent contact with the flower pot. "I have a reservation." However, the dear soul was distraught. She registered and beat a hasty retreat to her assigned room in an endeavor to see if any leaves still contained in the squashed box could be salvaged.

Safely in her room, Mrs. St. John surveyed the wreckage of her plant. It was a total loss. Valiantly she decided it must not spoil her trip . . . She must hurry and register! Now where was her membership card? Looking frantically thru her overstuffed handbag, she could not find her card - all the while re-reading in her mind a recent letter from Mr. Gottshall in which he had cautioned her not to fail to bring her membership card, as it was necessary for registering.

Thank heavens, there it was! The hot and cold chills subsided as she clutched it in her hand. However could she have been so forgetful!

Going up on the elevator, Mrs. St. John met several pleasant people, Mrs. E. M. Smelser, Mrs. Nelle Fry, Mrs. Edwin Anderson, and Mrs. John Stilwell. She inquired if any of them had seen Floyd Johnson. She was most anxious to see him. They had not seen Floyd Johnson but thought surely he would be there. She might, they suggested inquire at the registration desk when she registered.

Well, registration wasn't going to be so bad after all. Shouldn't take over a few minutes, thought Mrs. St. John. That is, if the tall light haired man ever stopped talking to Mrs. Craig. Presenting her membership card to Mrs. Filing at the desk, she smiled and said, "I wish to register for the meeting, here is my membership card. Mr. Gottshall said it would be required."

Conversation began to penetrate her foggy thoughts as she was busy planning what she would do, whom she wanted to meet, and their names. She must not forget names! Conversation like this . . . "but you know I HAVE a membership card . . . you know I must have one someplace." The tall blonde man was searching thru his pockets all the while he talked. He could not find his membership card. Now wasn't that too bad as Mr. Gottshall had told her a membership card was necessary. As he turned she recognized him-- Of all people — Mr. Gottshall! Mrs. St. John moved toward him saying, "Mr. Gottshall, I am Mrs. St. John--" just as Ima Chatterton raced off the elevator pushed her aside and introduced herself to Warren Gottshall.

The dining room doors were opening. "The Pigeon" had plans for a very good table in front of the speakers platform, and some of them made a dash for it - Unfortunately some noisy bunch from Tennessee beat them to the punch. It is also needless to say that there was a contest for that particular table during the remainder of the convention. The Tennessee crew always won out . . . even if one or two speedier members had to remove their shoes and lie down on four or five chairs until the rest of their party arrived.

Mrs. St. John and the other Pigeon members settled down to some serious rubber-necking, while the poor waiter tried not to drop EVERYTHING into their laps. "There is Mrs. Schadewald and Our President — Mary Blackburn and Henry Peterson. Does anyone know if Ruth Yoars, Dalene Rhodes or Clarissa Harris is here?" This continued for a full 10 minutes as all squirmed from side to side in their chairs, and a few stood up, to see just who all was there . . . while going thru such comments as, "Mr. Edens looks well this year!" "Good heavens look at that hat! It's the same big black one she has worn for the past three years." "Oh, my! look at all the men." "Is that Arthur Chard?" "Look there goes one of the men carrying his plate to another table." "My, isn't Dr. Seeley cute!"

Mrs. St. John was watching with interest the people seated at the "head table" and wondering if any of them would remember her from the last convention - or notice her. She was thrilled - Mrs. Radtke smiled and nodded. Her pleasant reactions were brought to a very abrupt end by a piercing shriek from someone

at her table -- "My cow! Raw Hamburgers! Take it AWAY!" The waiter came rushing. It seemed everyone in the room craned their necks in her direction, so Mrs. St. John pretended she had dropped her napkin and crawled under the table to look for it - -

At the table left to right, Mrs. John Slivka reading program, Mrs. Hugh Mullarky, back to artist, Ima Chatterton wearing glasses, Mrs. R. I. Peyre-Ferry holding tea cup, and Mrs. St. John under the table . . .

there she remained until the hubbub had subsided. Mrs. St. John was disconcerted. She pushed her food from one side of the plate to the other and afterwards could not remember whether she had eaten anything or not. All through Dr. Seeley's talk and the remainder of the program someone at her table kept muttering - in a loud whisper, "Imagine, three bucks for raw hamburgers!"

Finally the announcement was made that the exhibit was open, and Mrs. St. John joined in the rush. She had been informed that the "Fringettes" would be on sale, but by the time she found the booth, there were already fifty people gathered in front of it. From the groans emanating from the few up front she knew she had been misinformed. Nevertheless she heard someone remark that they were on display. At least she could fight it out and get a good look at them. The time was longer than she had anticipated, so she drifted over to other displays. The plants of the West End Nursery (with Mrs. Jennie Spoutz in attendance) set her mouth watering. "Look at that white and purple bloom over there." (At a later time someone asked her what type foliage was under the bloom and for the life of her she did not know. All she could remember was that one single blossom.)

She also fell in love with Tinari's America, and their Helen Wilson was unusually interesting, though personally, she did not care for Doubles - even if they did have a frilly "girl" type foliage. "My, Oh My, but did they have some nice things . . ."

Then there was dear, little Mrs. Brown tucked away in such a dark corner - with so many wonderful, so many different varieties on display. She caught sight of Mr. Carter and asked him where the seedlings were being shown. Subconsciously, Mrs. St. John was disappointed. "How do they expect a body to see them, let alone study the new things on this dark side of the room? Why don't they pull the drapes? Oh, the First Place plant is called Love Birds. What a nice leaf has Rippling Blue." She drifted back to see if she could get a glimpse at the Fringettes and ended up with another look at America.

Mr. Edens was saying to Mr. Tinari, "What in the world is THAT?" Mr. Tinari replied, "Our America." "And why did you not enter it in the seedling exhibit?" "We did." "Well it isn't there now." Mr. Tinari took Mr. Edens to prove that it was. Mrs. St. John trailed close behind to hear the remainder of the conversation. Mr. Tinari pointed to a plant on the end of the table. Mr. Edens said, "I don't believe it." Whereupon, Mr. Tinari carried the plant to an undraped window. Mr. Edens said nothing for a full three minutes, then his only comment was, "You have a better plant of it in your own exhibit."

"Dear me, look at the time" Mrs. St. John thought, "and I haven't seen everything. I must run and dress for the Banquet. I do hope that the exhibit will be open later on." She made a rush for her room, quickly took a shower, threw herself across the bed with her aching feet toward the window. Mrs. St. John was playing out, but, after a moment's rest she arose, pulled the prettiest of the five dresses she had brought with her over her head, brushed her hair, painted on a new face, crushed on her new Easter bonnet - all over violets, caught up her box of leaves and plants she had brought for friends, and lastly slipped into a fresh pair of shoes. She tripped daintily to the elevator.

Mrs. St. John spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lyke as she entered the elevator. They too were going up to the meeting. The elevator stopped at the 5th floor - Mrs. Wright entered, smiled, and spoke with Mrs. St. John. Then noting badges on the other two passengers said, "My name is Alma Wright", as she looked at the writing

(Drawing by Arthur Chard.)

. . . and now before introducing the speaker I would like to say a FEW words - - ??

The letter bearing the earliest postmark correctly identifying the people in the above cartoon will be given a one year's subscription to the African Violet Magazine. - - Editor.

on Mr. Lyke's badge. Turning to the lady she said, " Do you know each other?" Stopping her short in the would-be introduction, Larry Lyke said, "Well, we should, she is my wife--." Dropping not a stitch in her chatter, Mrs. Wright took up another subject.

Ima Chatterton was waving to Mrs. St. John from the second best table in the room. "Darling, we saved you a chair," she screamed. "Do hurry, and did you bring my Fantasy?"

Ima was disgruntled again. Mrs. St. John had refused to admit to herself that the horrible screech at the luncheon had belonged to Ima, but there was no denying it now as she loudly exclaimed, "My cow! bean soup with peas."

Trying to be oblivious of the commotion this time, Mrs. St. John gazed about the room. "There goes that woman with the pencil and pad," she thought. "Wonder what she's doing?" Ima settled the question for her by remarking "See the old girl over there with the pencil and pad? Claims she's doing interviews for the magazine. Thinks she's doing a Helen Van Pelt Wilson act - since I hear that dear is sick in the hospital. Claims she is on the staff of the magazine. Humph! Anyway she asked my opinion of the convention, and you can bet I gave her an earful - just in case she might be who she says she is."

"My dear," Mrs. St. John exclaimed, "Don't you know who she is?" But she had no takers as the folks at the speakers table were being introduced. "Oh my!" she thought, " Mr. Free, Mr. Frese, Mr. Winchester, Mrs. Newnham - so many famous editors and publishers . . . we are certainly coming up in the world."

During the second course, Ima Chatterton again split the air with "My cow! fried chicken, and I just spent one full hour giving myself a new manicure. Tell that cute waiter with the curly hair over there to come here and bring me some fish."

Ignoring the hubbub of conversation, Mrs. St. John wondered if it would be the best idea to leave a note at the desk for Floyd Johnson. She had been trying to get to see him all afternoon and could never find him. Possibly, if she were very alert she could detain him for just a moment if she was quick at the end of the meeting. She must not fail tonight!

Early in the morning, Mrs. St. John caught the train for Bethayres. Anne and Frank were wonderful — their greenhouses were simply perfection. She had bought more than she should she thought, as she wound her way perilously thru the maze of tables at the luncheon meeting. Ima was waving to her and screeching too loudly, "Hurry! Hurry!" She had stayed longer than she should, but it was so hard to leave — they were such lovely people. Everyone was looking at her. Waves of embarrassment engulfed her. She twitched a little nervously as she squeezed through the tables and balanced the enormous box of plants she carried. Struggling the full length of the dining room, Mrs. St. John finally reached the table in time to hear her friend say, "Well I'll bet a purty she hasn't bought anything for anyone but herself!" Ima Chatterton snatched the box and opened it in a flash. "Well, here is a nice white one with a large sucker. I will just take it! No need for me to go to Tinari's. I always did like a good white. What else did you get?" Grasping her box firmly, Mrs. St. John took it from Ima's hands and pushed it under the table in an embarrassed silence.

The meeting was nearly over, Mrs. St. John realized. If she wanted to see the Fringettes, she had better rush. But the Fringettes were gone and the room was empty . . . she was most disappointed! Well, maybe now she could find Floyd Johnson. Walking rapidly from room to room she began to taste the dregs of defeat. Two of her dearest ambitions were not realized. She had wanted so to see the Fringettes and . . . where in the world was Floyd Johnson???

"TRI-COLOR"

AFRICAN VIOLET JARDINIERE

BEAUTIFUL SOLID BRASS SELF-IRRIGATING - - PLANTS REQUIRE WATERING ONLY ONCE A WEEK FROM THE BOTTOM TROUGH. ELIMINATES ALL DAILY WATERING.

ORNAMENTAL - - ATTRACTIVE

WILL NOT MAR FURNITURE

SIZE 5 INCHES HIGH. LOVELY FLARED TOP ABOUT 5 INCHES WIDE

Simply place clay pot in jardiniere and your violets will keep healthy and blooming. You will be pleased with the gratifying results.

WONDERFUL AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE AFRICAN VIOLETS. SOMETHING BRAND NEW AND ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FOR YOUR GIFTS THIS YEAR.

PRICE ONLY $3.50 POSTPAID. SPECIAL PRICES TO DEALERS FOR QUANTITIES FOR RE-SALE.

ORDER TODAY

Send Check or Money Order To:

BOX 8511 WESTHAMPTON STATION

TRI-COLOR

RICHMOND 26, VIRGINIA

SAINTPAULIAS

Gain their rightful place in a National Flower and Garden Show

Washington, D. C. recently played host to the 26th National Flower and Garden Show conducted by the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists. The show transformed the National Guard Armory into over two acres of beautiful gardens and provided our Capitol with its first flower show of such magnitude. It also honored the Metropolitan African Violet Club by extending to them the first invitation to exhibit our favorite houseplant. Never before had Saintpaulias been exhibited at a flower show of this size by invitation, or with appreciation (outside of those appearing in commercial exhibits). It is to be remembered that the shows conducted by the above Society were the original parents of the great local shows (New York, Philadelphia, etc.) that eventually developed as a result of their having, at one time or another, been staged in these respective cities.

African violets are beginning to take their just place in general flower exhibits and are no longer mere subjects for specialized and exclusively saintpaulia shows. This means that the beauty, fame and popularity of African violets is now being displayed to a greater number of plant lovers; that their future is assured and will spread with greater rapidity across the nation. Chas. Hahn & Son (originators of Hahn's self branching Ivy) had, in their beautiful exhibit a bed comprised of at least five hundred Lady Genevas and duPont Blues, a "sight to behold." Another section of the show was given over to 100 square foot plots for the purpose of bedding single plant species. One of these plots (planted by Goebel's Greenhouses) was devoted to many varieties of African violets. Unfortunately, this display was placed next to one of azaleas and the brilliant hues of these latter plants tended to dull the shades of saintpaulias exhibited. Not too unfortunate, however, when you later learn that both the above greenhouse and Behnke Nurseries (also with a commercial booth at the show) were practically cleaned out of plants in the few weeks following the show. In addition to these exhibits, and the display of the Metropolitan African Violet Club, saintpaulia blooms were occasionally found in the floral arrangements of the local garden clubs.

Being situated adjacent to the wonderful garden display of Jackson & Perkins with its hundreds of rose bushes, including a predominance of the floribunda Fashion, the Metropolitan African Violet Club exhibit had one of the choice spots in the show. In addition, the huge bowl of our First Lady's flowers (Mrs. Harry Truman)

Hahn Exhibit

Green and white ivy plants form the ivy pattern. (The white is to be released soon.) Lady Geneva, is in the lower right hand corner. Light Blue duPonts in the lower left hand corner.

Mrs. Hoy at left Mrs. Husted on the right of the exhibit,

Below part of the Jackson Perkins exhibit.

was directly in front of the booth. There was not only the advantage of drawing the attention of the thousands of rose lovers but, also all the garden club members and enthusiasts, as these latter clubs had their gardens and rooms for floral arrangements on the opposite side of the aisle.

The show was no "small time" affair, for it was open to the public from March 23rd to, and including the 29th and had over 100,000 visitors, — over 82,000 paid admittances and some 20,000 school children and pass holders who were admitted free. The Metropolitan Club members, who stood four hour shifts at the show, felt that at least ninety percent of the attendance stopped by their booth and asked an average of a dozen questions each.

It had been the original intention of the Show Committee, when extending the invitation, that the African violet display would be judged. The club, however, through its President and Show Chairman, Mrs. Martha Husted, vetoed this plan. They decided more could be accomplished toward advertising saintpaulias and the African Violet Society of America, Inc. if no judging were done as this would be a means of placing emphasis on a very few prize winning varieties. Their chief aim was to plug African violets as a whole instead of one or two varieties. On the other hand, had the plants been judged, they would have had to remain on display for the entire week of the show. The fact that African violets quite frequently drop their bloom, due to moving them into conditions unlike those to which they were grown in the individual homes, also contributed toward the elimination of judging. As it was, the plants could be, and frequently were, changed as soon as they appeared to go out of condition. This, of course, made for a fresh appearing, as well as a changing, display and more varieties could be eventually displayed than would have been possible in the space allotted if the exhibit had remained unchanged. Approximately seventy five varieties were on display each day.

Regardless of the club's good intentions, several varieties still drew the attention of the visitors. Leading all the varieties exhibited were the inquiries for

the identification of Rosalie (which had the advantageous position of a front corner of one of the side tables), followed closely by Mentor Boy and Purple Prince (for the lovely deep purple of their blooms). Lady Constance (probably a supreme type of Purple Prince) drew its due attention during its brief appearance, and Mrs. Husted's Heart's Desire topped all inquiries on the day on which it was exhibited.

Part of the reception given the Metropolitan African Violet Club exhibit was due to the efforts of the local newspapers, many of which ran feature articles on the plants, the club's president, and activities of the club - its meetings, plans and speakers. Part was due to the fact that the club had sponsored two of its own shows previously, had an educational display in a federated garden club show and had joined with the National Bird Club to stage a combined African violet and bird show. As a consequence, the club's name and plants were well known around the metropolitan area of Washington. Also, the club put on a personal advertising campaign, as it sold 800 advance tickets for the show.

The invitation to participate in the show was received on January the 22nd and gave the club but two months to prepare for the show. One of Washington's leading furniture stores was contacted and readily agreed to lend their assistance by donating glass top ornamental iron furniture to be used and also by assigning their artist to help with the planning and color scheme; it was decided to use gold and black. Furniture was ordered from Chicago and arrived the day preceding the show — presenting a reversal of plans, as the furniture which arrived was antique green instead of black, so the rug was switched to the same color of shag construction — giving the appearance of a lawn. Much of the credit and work on the show must be given to Mr. Wm. O. Husted, a non-member, who designed and constructed the booth and who worked like a Trojan. As a consequence, and out of appreciation, the Metropolitan African Violet Club made Mr. Husted an honorary member. The accompanying picture will give you an idea of the exhibit's final appearance.

Acting for the club were Mrs. Edith Hoy, Mrs. Regina Gottshall and Mrs. Fred Rosebrock as a property committee in conjunction with the above mentioned artist; Mrs. Eunice Toms was chairman in charge of securing and staging of the plants. Other members assisted in the arrangement of the booth and information service during the week-long show. Much interest was shown in the National Society and its publication, the African Violet Magazine. Had it been possible, the attendants at the exhibit could have sold well over a thousand copies of this quarterly. Several thousands of the Society's brochures and applications were distributed upon request for information.

Of the people who attended the show, those who came to see the gardens stopped to admire the violets and make inquiries about them; those who came to see the violets lingered to see the gardens.

Although the plants were not judged, the display received a "Highly Commended" award from the Judging Committee of the Show.

TO OUR FRIENDS
THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

Behnke
NURSERIES

Beltsville, Maryland

NOTE TO HYBRIDIZERS:
We think our RED PRINCE is a good prospect for breeding towards a finer red.
Blossoms: Clear claret red - medium.
Foliage: Light green, heartshaped, medium quilted, but not serrated. Very compact growth. Try your luck!
Each $3.00. Shipping again in the Spring.

SUPERPHOSPHATE
GROUND LIMESTONE
CRUDE NAPHTHALENE FLAKES
CHARCOAL
BONE MEAL

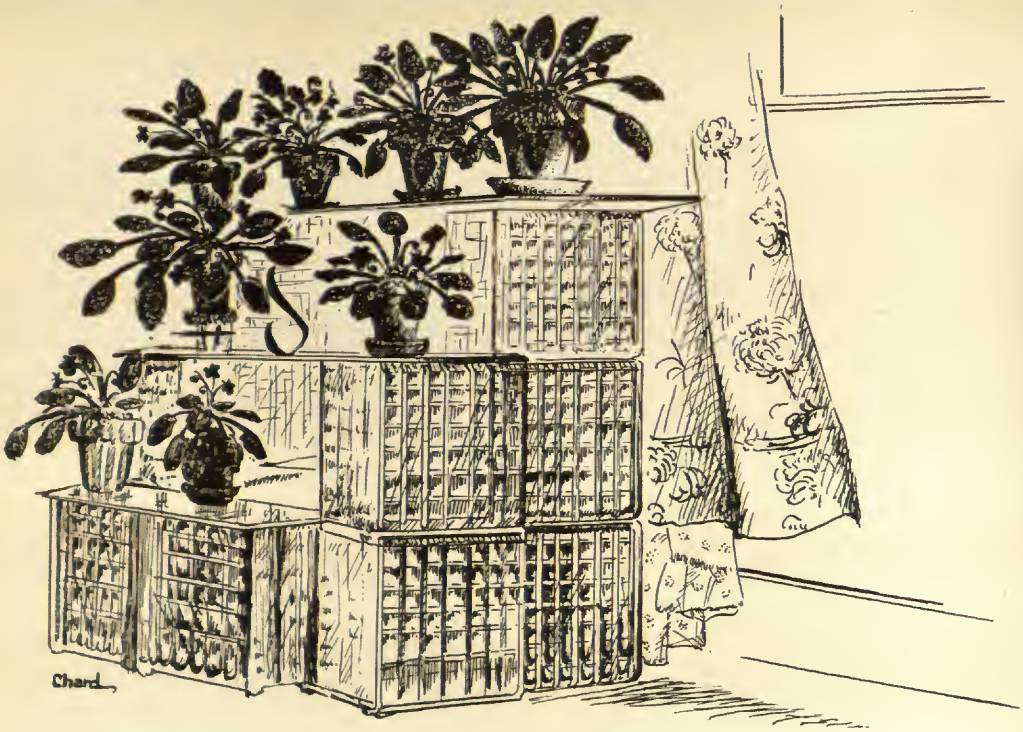
From the number of times these items are mentioned in correspondence as difficult or impossible to get locally there seems to be need for a mail-order supplier. I have arranged to stock them to fill that need.

Package of about two quarts of each, one dollar, postpaid. Combination package of bone meal, charcoal, ground limestone, and superphosphate, also one dollar, postpaid. Shipped in neat container which is excellent for mailing leaves.

What else do you have trouble getting? Drop me a line and I will see if it can be stocked also.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake Penns Grove, N. J.



GLASS BUILDING BLOCKS AND SHELVES MAKE AN EXCELLENT LIVING ROOM PLANT STAND

Recipe for GROWING BETTER VIOLETS

Edna M. Agnew, New York

The first step is plenty of light. I keep my plants in south windows exclusively, allowing sun for a while in the morning during winter months with a thin curtain to protect from direct rays of the sun. During summer, I draw the shades until the sun has passed. My plants bloom almost continuously and seem to bloom better if given some sun.

The second step is room temperature and humidity. During cold weather, I keep my house at a temperature averaging 70-72 degrees. To overcome dryness throughout the rooms, I keep large vases or containers filled with water on radiators.

Watering is the third step. I water my plants after they have had their sun bath, feeling that by so doing they retain moisture longer. I use very warm water to which I add Hyponex or superphosphate once a week. I find that top feeding with superphosphate is very beneficial, using one teaspoon to a quart of water.

For leaf propagation I use a mixture of ¼ peat moss and ¾ vermiculite, feeding weekly with liquid containing ¼ teaspoon Hyponex to a quart of water. I keep them moist at all times and do not repot until the plants are about ready to bud. Then I repot in 3 inch pots containing a mixture of peat moss, vermiculite and sand, placing charcoal pieces in the bottom, and to each 3 inch pot I include 1½ teaspoons of vitaloam. I now use glazed pots which eliminate the use of the saucer, but which require watering from the top.

My husband made a fine plant stand from plywood which he varnished and waxed. It contains three shelves one foot wide and three feet long. The center shelf is seven inches lower than the ones on either side. For convenience, underneath the shelves on which the plants rest at the top, other shelves have been provided for plant accessories, vines or other material. I place this stand so that one end of the shelves on which the plants rest is near the window, the other end pointing out into the room. This arrangement provides more light for all the plants on all three shelves.

My larger plants are on a glass stand made of glass building blocks.

I never sterilize the soil I use, feeling that this reduces its value. However, I do sterilize pots. No other plants or cut flowers are kept in the same room with my violets. I seldom have a casualty with this method.

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors

Complete information for shows, judges, exhibitors, definitions of violet show terms, scale of points, hints and tips, that will be a help in Judging School at Dayton. 75¢ each, mailing included.

RUTH G. CAREY
706 Garden Ave.
Fountain City, Tenn.

ANNUAL MEETING, DAYTON, OHIO,

APRIL 26, 27, AND 28, 1951.

AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS

Do

YOUR PLANTS GO OUT OF BLOOM?

YOUR PLANTS HAVE LICE ETC.?

Or

ARE THEY TO YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION?

Or

ARE THEY DOPED UP AND HAVE TO BE FED?

THERE'S NO DOPE IN WORMANURE

No wiggles, no crown rot, no lice, no plant without a heavy root structure but with gorgeous foliage and large continuous blooms. This we guarantee.

THE WORLDS LARGEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS
Are Grown In
WORMANURE

Sorry no immediate delivery. Please be patient.
Folder mailed upon request.

ANDERSON EARTHWORM HATCHERY
R. F. D. BLACKWOOD, N. J.

QUESTION BOX

Lauretta L. Littig, 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

Keep your questions coming in, and don't forget to help with the answers. The different solutions make it interesting.

QUESTIONS

To soften water, I was told to put in a pinch of soda, while another party said she softened water by adding ¼ teaspoon of alum to a quart of water. I once read to put baking powder in the water but to use only the kind without alum. Have you tried any of these?

Mrs. E. Lyons, Iowa

A friend brought me her violet plant in which the center leaves have turned a greyish white, and dropped down. The outer leaves look all right. As the flowers open, they drop off, and the buds dry up. What is the cause of this?

Mrs. D. MacArthur, Mich.

Some of my violets have very small blossoms which drop off shortly after opening. Some outside leaves wilt and the center leaves grow in tight clusters. This happens only to my older plants. Could this be caused by over watering or lack of fertilizer? I use rotted manure or commercial sheep manure.

Mrs. Vernon Gould, N. Y.

What causes a dusty yellow appearance on my African violets?

Could you give me a list of patented violets?

Miss Martha Davis, N. Y.

Could you tell me how to get rid of green lice on my violets? I have soaked them in tobacco tea, sprayed with Red Arrow and Black Leaf 40. I have repotted in clean soil and pots, but the lice come back. I bake my soil and pots.

Mrs. Homer Willis, Pa.

I read your article on, "How to Grow Gloxinias from Leaves." I now have a leaf rooted in water with a tuber. As Gloxinias have a rest period in November, am afraid if I plant it now, it might die.

Mrs. R. G. Wodarczek, W. Va.

Answer: As your little tuber hasn't done anything yet to need a rest, plant it in soil now. After it grows a nice plant and blossoms, it will deserve a rest period.

Lauretta L. Littig

ANSWERS

Grey Spots On Leaves

To Mrs. Ruth Brown, Ind.

I think the greyish spots on your plant is mildew, caused possibly from too much damp weather. A light dusting of wettable sulphur should cure it.

M. Warren, Ill.

I also noticed a moldy look on the blossoms, as well as the stems, on several of my plants. I found a good spraying of Optox stoped it.

Miss Louise Beritt, Calif.

Soft Leaves

To Mrs. Mabel Weaver, Pa.

Several months ago my Ionantha got soft leaves, flowers, everything. I didn't know what to do so did nothing. After a few weeks with regular care, it snapped out of it. Neptune did the same thing with the same results. I will be interested to know the cause as much as you will.

Miss Louise Bevitt, Calif.

Brown Scales On Stems

To Mrs. John Phillips, Iowa

I had similar trouble, and was told my plant had Efflorescence disease or petiole rot. The soluble salts on the top of the soil and pot rim had come in contact with the leaves and caused them to rot. I was told to scrape off the white substance and cover the pot rim with aluminum foil — also to wash the salts out of the soil with a solution made of ¼ teaspoon vinegar to a quart of water. There was a good article on Efflorescence disease in the July issue of "The Home Garden" magazine.

Mrs. H. Hunt, Iowa

Flower Pots Without Drainage

To Mrs. Otto Janck, Minn.

African violets may be planted in pots without an opening in the bottom if you use good drainage material such as pebbles or broken bits of flower pot. It is a good idea to sprinkle a little lime or bone meal over the pebbles before putting in the soil. Care should be taken not to over water. I prefer to put the plant in a clay pot and put this in your vase or teapot.

Mrs. E. Little, Mich.

Insecticides

To Mrs. John E. Jones, Ind.

I have tried different insecticides but had best success with N.N.O.R. I spray my plant once a month, and occasionally dip the whole plant in this solution.

Miss Joan Essler, Wis.

Flies In Soil

To Rosamond V. Earnest, Tenn.

I got rid of these tiny flies by wetting the soil well with Red Arrow. I had used rotted manure in the soil and believe the flies hatched in that as I hadn't sterilized my soil. I now bake my soil or sterilize it with formaldehyde, and have had no further trouble with flies.

Verma Leach, Wis.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

and a wish for

your happiness

all through

the

NEW YEAR

Alma Wright

Mary Parker

Best Wishes to all our friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
STARR DAHLIA GARDENS
869 Confederate Ave. S. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JUDGES SCHOOL

Wednesday April 25, 1951

Dayton, Ohio

Complete Details in the March Magazine

Registration Report . . .

Neil C. Miller, Chairman

The necessity for the quick change in chairmanship of this Committee, with the accompanying requirement of transfer of records and familiarization with records by the new chairman, caused the normal routine of registration procedure to be somewhat interrupted during August and September. Information was not furnished to some applicants as quickly as could have been desired, and necessary correspondence concerning un-clear or questionable applications could not be properly completed. Fortunately, normal activity in these two months is the lightest of the entire year, so the total amount of retardation was small.

Following the practice initiated by Mr. Edens in the report published in the previous issue of this Magazine (September, 1950) the applications published will be classed in two groups, called Part I and Part II. Part I includes applications for registration on which no questions or objections have been apparent during processing or on which such questions or objections have been successfully answered. Part II includes applications on which some question is evident or felt, such as: inability of a written description to indicate difference or improvement, conflict of name, question as to origination or right to register, etc.

PART I

The following nine applications, in this group, have been received during this period:

BLUE EYED GIRL
Willow Terrace,
(May and Oscar Kunkel)
1830 Versailles Road,
Lexington, Ky.

BLUE FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

EMPEROR WILHELM
Mrs. Arthur A. Pyle,
Russell, Iowa

GLORIOUS
Mrs. Myron W. Maybach,
241 Union St.,
Hamburg, N. Y.

LAVENDAR FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

MISS HARRIET
Mrs. J. B. Preston,
3101 Willow Park,
Grove Park,
Roanoke, 17, Va.

ORIENTAL
Mrs. Ott Rule,
203 Doughty Road,
Fountain City, Tenn.

RED FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

SNOW PRINCESS
Willow Terrace
(May and Oscar Kunkel)
Lexington, Ky.

These are published in accordance with Section 19 of the Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration. The Code provides that applications so published become permanently registered six months after publication, if no objections to registration are received meanwhile. Objections to registration - - and it must be emphasied that if any objections are felt they should be expressed - - may be made by writing in sufficient detail to the Chairman of the Committee on Registration, Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

PART II

There are six applications on hand which are in this group. But some of the questions are rather trivial and could probably have been resolved if sufficient correspondence could have passed concerning them. In view of this, it has been deemed inadvisable to publish any applications under this heading in this report.

RED CLAY POTS

2¼ inch ..... $3.00 per 100
3 inch ..... $4.00 per 100
4 inch Squatty Azalea pots ..... $6.00 per 100
4 inch pot labels ..... $2.50 per 500
Dahlia & Iris labels .... $3.00 per 500

MEARS GARDEN SALES

R 3 Box 89
Anderson, Ind.

COMPOST

Mable Boyd, Tenn.

Much hard work and time are spent producing beautiful yards and gardens. May we take time to think of some of the basic facts of producing and preserving the useful and beautiful nature around us. How many of us stop to think that we keep the yards too "clean"? How many of us realize that we still have too much pioneer spirit. We clean up and burn too much or have it hauled away.

Plants take their share of strength from the ground. This must be returned to keep the earth well nourished. The laws of nature are so that we cannot get something for nothing. We must return to the earth for the value received in all plant life. Undernourished soil becomes hard and packed and dries out easily, crackles up as it dries, letting it dry faster, thus producing poor plant life.

The finest plants are produced in rich mellow soil, so let us turn to one of the very best means to keep it that way, or if the land is in run down condition, to restore it to "wanted health".

May we become COMPOST MINDED, take this seriously and start now to help Mother Nature in her great effort to wrap the earth in leaves and dead vegetation protecting the richness from washing away. Let's become conscious of how muddy every ditch runs after rains. Let's observe vegetation in crusty soil making a feeble struggle to live while that in rich mellow soil flourishes.

Let's become FIRE CONSCIOUS and realize what criminals we are to have bonfires of leaves. May we preserve that which is plentiful around us.

Start by arranging some place in the back yard where you can pile all the rakings, grass clippings, leaves, vegetable trimmings, table scraps, etc., even feathers and chicken dressings (they are very high in nitrogen), in fact everything except glass, tin cans and paper. Add stable manure, preferably cow manure, throw a little dirt over this collection and dig in anything that will attract flies.

Never worry about odors. Mother Nature has a wonderful chemical laboratory for breaking down and purifying everything that is buried therein. Earthworms are the scientists that stir, aerate and enrich waste for us.

When friend husband finds the rich supply of earth worms that come to make their home in compost, he will keep it turned often, digging them out for fish bait!

Keep the pile watered if there is a drought. Stirring occasionally speeds the process Mother Nature is carrying on.

A wall isn't necessary, but a few boards, a row of broken concrete, a fence of low chicken wire or possibly a concrete block wall or a small brick wall will prevent the spread of materials you have collected.

This may seem unsightly at first. Overcome that little streak of false pride. You will soon be repaid with rich mellow compost for distribution to desired places.

May we soon point with as much pride to the "compost I have made" as to the "beautiful flowers I have grown".

HOMING PIGEON

Cont. from page 25

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

It has been difficult to gather enough material for our column this time. So many people including myself, have been on vacation. So many have been in a rush of getting settled when they returned, they wrote only short notes and sent the Pigeon on to keep from holding it up. I hope that from now on every one will settle down, and when you sit down to write a letter for your Pigeon Unit, that you will include at least one good hint. If you can't give a hint from experience -- pass on some tip that you may have heard from someone else. Many Directors are complaining that their members forget to send their courtesy cards -- PLEASE do this!! Many Units have become lost. Any one knowing the wherebouts of Units 21 and 61 please report at once to me. If you are interested in joining a Unit, please send your name to Mrs. Canner and not to me.

Once more I am asking for your help! I have to depend on your letters for material for this column. I want it to be a good one — don't you?

I'll be listen'n'

Sincerely

Violet Berry, Editor

TWO PIECE PLANTERS

Control Watering of Your African violets.

No. 8 Oval 3x4x4 at $1.50
No. 9 Square 4x4x3 at $2.00
No. 10 Oval 3x4x3 at $1.00
No. 11 Square 4x4x4 at $2.50
No. 12 Rect. 3x5x3 at $2.50

Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, Sept. Issue This Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves . . . Plants

Many new varieties. Send for list.
Leaves 3 for $1.00. Minimum order $3.00.

NOKER'S PLANT NURSERY

West Chestnut Ave. Vineland, N. J.

IDEAL XMAS GIFT

FOR PLANT LOVERS

This perfectly balanced, 100% water soluble, plant food will give new life, gorgeous bloom, stronger roots to all plants. Guarantee bloom in African violets. Ideal for starting seedlings, cuttings and transplants. Your gardening friends will be delighted with Plant Marvel as a gift from you. 16 oz. can makes 250 gals. plant food. Handy measure, directions and free leaflet on African violets with each pkg. $1.25 P.Pd.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORY

12050 Parnell Ave. Dept. AV3
Chicago 28, Ill.

VARIEGATION

Cont. from page 22

ringspot patterns of diseases caused by viruses that I became interested in this subject. I wished to undertake transmission experiments in order to learn whether or not the African violet ringspots were caused by a virus. When I began to look for healthy plants to use in such experiments, I was unable to find any. Reports were received that certain individuals possessed African violets that did not have the disease, but on investigation every report proved to be unfounded. Some individuals did possess plants that showed hardly any symptoms, but on careful examination every plant was found to be diseased, and to show at least some mild symptoms. The symptoms were very inconspicuous in certain instances. After being unable to find any African violet that was free of this disease, I concluded that all clones in the trade had become diseased. I next sought to obtain disease-free plants from seeds. It is a well known fact that most virus diseases are not transmitted through seeds. Hence it was hoped that by this means it would be possible to get healthy plants. I grew a fair number of African violets from leaves that appeared to be completely green, but every plant thus obtained showed the disease."

"I next turned to species belonging in other families for healthy experimental plants. It is sometimes possible to transfer a virus from the family of plants in which it does not occur naturally. So I inoculated juice from badly diseased leaves of African violet into leaves of many different species. None of these inoculations were successful. I obtained seed of a number of different species in the family Gesneriaceae. When plants of this species were grown from seed it was found that they all had the disease. If it is caused by a virus, it is transmitted through seed as well as by vegetative propagation. The disease is widespread if not universal in the Gesneriaceae, the family to which the African violet belongs. It has not been observed in species belonging to other families. By experimenting, I learned one more thing about the disease. It can be almost completely suppressed by growing African violets or other species in the Gesneriaceae under proper conditions of lighting. In bright sunlight it becomes serious. In fairly deep shade, its effects almost disappear."

"I am unable to answer your question as to why plants grown from leaf petioles of the variety Blue Girl are greener in the first than in the succeeding vegetative generations. Such behavior, if it occurs, can not be considered as due to a recessive or a dominant gene in the generally accepted sense."

PEP-O-PLANT

IDEAL FOOD for House Plants
Especially suited for African violets
Rich in Plant Vitamins
6 oz. bottle added to water
makes 42 quarts
50¢ per bottle postpaid

LE CLERCQ COMPANY
Box 3015 Minneapolis 10, Minn.

VIOLETS
THRIVE
in
VERMICULITE POTTERY

Because the roots get all the oxygen they need. Stagnation and souring of the soil is eliminated and excessive evaporation of moisture is retarded with these attractive sturdy planters.

Available in 5 sizes and in 3 pastel gold flecked colors - Green - Rose - Blue

Model A

Model B

Model C

6-Model A-4" - $6
4-Model A-6" - $8
4-Model B-6" - $6
4-Model C-11" - $8
2-Model C-16 - $6
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VERMICULITE POTTERY, Inc.
P. O. Box 991
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AFRICAN VIOLETS
LEAVES - PLANTS
Most of the older varieties and limited stock of many new ones, including Fringettes, White Girl, and Fantasy
Write for List
E. H. THOMAS
457 Bridges Road Walnut Creek, Calif.

Courtesy of Evan Roberts, Supt. Horticulture Greenhouses, Michigan State College. "Apparently there are two types of variegation in African violets.

1. Regular (for example, Blue Girl).
2. Irregular.

Variegation depends on:

1. Where the new plants originate, as cuttings -- from which layer cells they originate.
2. Inheritance. (Some variegation is inherited).
3. Other factors. Some variegation is caused by virus diseases, some by lack of fertilizer and some by other conditions."

Courtesy of Orland E. White, Blandy Experimental Farm, University of Virginia. "So far as I understand the situation, there are two different kinds of variegation, one caused by environment and the other which you regard in the Blue Girl variety as a hereditary phenomenon. This latter type is the one that appears to involve the different kinds of tissues, one chlorophyl defective, and the other normal green. My own opinion is that it is a chimaera phenomenon (a mixture of tissues of different genetic constitution in the same part of a plant), in which mutations occur in the normal green tissue and these are often swamped later by the normal tissue."

Courtesy of H. M. Butterfield, Agriculturist, University of California. "It is true that the loss of green color in parts of African violets may not be a characteristic that is carried over into the rooted plants. Either the loss of color is not an inherited characteristic or else it is in the form of a chimaera, where the small plants that develop at the base of the petiole on rooted leaves revert back to the ordinary green form. The only way whereby a variegated chimaera could be preserved would be to make divisions of the mother plant rather than root leaves."

"The plants that form at the base of a petiole usually form from the inner "cambium" (a soft formative tissue which gives rise to new tissue in the stems and roots of plants), and there is always the possibility that plants with variegated foliage that is a chimaera of this sort will have the variegation limited to the surface tissue, rather than extending into the cambium, and that is why the rooted leaf cuttings revert back to the original form."

"People interested in chimaeras should know that there are three general kinds: one which involves the variegation just mentioned; another which we usually refer to as a sectional chimaera where only a section of the plant is affected; and the third where only the outer tissues are affected."

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE -

CHARCOAL - Granulated, horticultural grade, ideal for soil conditioning. Plastic bag 50¢ P.P.
OPTOX - Effective insecticide spray. Per bottle 60¢ P.P.
AFRI- GROW - Same time proven soil we use ourselves and have sold for years. Sterilized by latest methods. 3 lbs. - $1.00, 5 lbs. - $1.50, 10 lbs. - $2.50 P.P. (West of Miss. add 05¢ per lb.)
HY-GRO - Balanced liquid fertilizer. Per jar 60¢ P.P.
PEAT MOSS - Imported, horticultural grade. Per bag 50¢ P.P.
PLANT LABELS - New, streamlined wood labels. Pkg. of 100 $1.00 P.P.
VERMICULITE - Finest rooting medium 4 qt. bag 85¢ P.P.
"CARE & CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS" Concise Booklet by Lloyd P. Lindsey. Latest edition 60¢ P.P.
"THE AFRICAN VIOLET" by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. $2.75 P.P.
WIK-FED POTS - 4 inch size $1.15 ea 12 for $11.00 P.P. New 5 inch size $1.50 each 12 for $15.00 P.P. Choice of Ivory, Pink, Yellow, Lavender, Green, Red, Blue. Black bases.

FREE CATALOG - Send for our catalog listing many other supplies and over 100 varieties of certified plants, rooted cuttings & leaves.

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS

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Orlyt
GREENHOUSE
$395
Excellent for Growing African Violets or Anything Else You Choose
Made in sections all ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. $395 buys the 10 by 11 ft. Orlyt shown ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Lean-tos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from $175 to $780. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms available. Write for Booklet No. 59.
LORD & BURNHAM
IRVINGTON N. Y.
DES PLAINES ILL.

Courtesy of W. D. Holly, Associate Horticulturist, Colorado A. & M. College.

"The reason that variegated African violets do not reproduce themselves is that the bud or new growth originates from green tissue. Should the buds originate from the white part of the tissue, they die before they reach the soil surface in most cases. The only chance for them to reproduce is if the bud originates from the line between green and white. Even though they come from green tissue, there is a possibility that the tendency toward variegation is carried along and crops up in later generations. It is impossible to fix the degree of variegation in African violets with any degree of satisfaction."

Courtesy of James H. Bodge, Director of The International Hybridizers Society of America.

"Variegation is of two kinds, one natural and one due to exterior causes. In African violets and instances of natural variegation as that of the grey or pearl streak at the base of the leaves of the African violet Viking, this is due to the fact that at this point on each and every mature leaf one layer of cells which contains chlorophyl is missing. This is also the cause of white spots on Rubra Begonia leaves and the pearl gray veins in Begonia Compta. This type of variegation is permanent. It occurs in all plants of this type."

"The second type of variegation is due to exterior causes; it may be caused by too much or too little plant food; too much or too little sunshine; an excess of one or more of the trace elements or a lack of trace elements thereof, especially iron or manganese in the potting soil and numerous other causes. When a plant with naturally green leaves produces one or more offsprings which are variegated, either with white or with colors, these plants are sick. When the natural balance of soil elements is restored, the leaf or leaves affected will either die or lose their variegation. If one is able to root a leaf or slip (some will be and some will not), and it is planted in soil of the same chemical composition, as that which produced the original variegation, it will continue to grow as a variegated plant during the time of its brief life. It will not produce variegated offspring unless the same set of conditions exist. What causes African violets to produce variegated leaves is not fully known. It may be and usually is due to lack of iron or manganese in the soil, as these elements are naturally present in minute quantities, (but sufficient to produce chlorophyl) in all soils. It is only under extraordinary circumstances that both are entirely absent, in that case the leaves of all plants growing in that soil will gradually

turn white and the plants will die of starvation. When insufficient maganese is the reason, some leaves will become streaked with white. A chemist can therefore cause variegation in any plant."

"There is no positive certainty in the theory that variegated leaves propagate green in the first clonal vegetative propagation and variegated in the second clonal vegetative propagation; this phenomenon may or may not happen as mentioned above. Let me give you an example: The Geranium (Happy Thought), when grown in soil in which sufficient iron and manganese is present will lose all its bright coloration and the leaves will be just like other all green Geranium leaves. This particular plant requires more manganese than any other known plant, which is the reason why it is variegated, as few soils contain sufficient manganese to allow it to produce regular Geranium leaves."

Courtesy Mrs. Banks McDowell, Tulsa, Okla.

"I have ten variegated plants. From these I have taken about twenty five leaves and propagated them. Of the twenty five leaves, only one sprouted a variegated plant and that was a leaf with a stem an inch above the ground. I tried the method of cutting the petiole out of the leaf about one half inch and planted the actual leaf. They have sprouted, but there is no variegation in the offspring, so far. My seeds have come up, but I cannot tell as yet, they all look green to me." In a later letter she mentions, "At the present time I have only two true variegated plants. The others have all turned green in the center of the crown. The variegation must have been caused by a deficiency in the soil; and as my soil is rich and well balanced, they overcome this condition. Of all the leaves that have sprouted so far, I have propagated only one variegated plant, and this leaf was from one of the true variegated plants."

Another lady mentioned in a robin letter, "I planted 12 leaves from a variegated plant. All the plantlets that came up were green. I planted 12 leaves from these small plants, and the resulting offspring were also green."

One famous woman grower of African violet claims every variegated violet plant she receives, reverts back to all green, when planted in her rich soil.

The second question that I asked was, "What are my greatest chances of obtaining variegation in seedlings from crosses made with true variegated plants. For example; a cross between two variegated plants, or a cross of a variegated plant on a totally green one, or vice versa." The answers are as follows:

FREE SAMPLE

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SPOONIT

EASY-TO-USE-FERTILIZER

"JUST THE THING" for African violets.

A trial will cost you but one penny - for a postal card. So send today for your sample.

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DEPENDABLE

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Now offering

White King (new)
Blue Eyed Beauty (new)
Lady Geneva
Double Neptune
Red King
Bronze Girl and many others.

Send for free price list. We supply Wik-Fed pots, potting soil, plant food, The African Violet Book, etc.

THE HARMON NURSERY

PROSPECT, OHIO

SODIUM SELENATE. For control of mite on African violets. In capsules of ¼ gram each, convenient for Extra-Dilute Method of treatment. 12 capsules (enough for about 200 plants) for $1.00. Due to change in Post Office Regulations shipment will be by express, collect.

PLASTIC PLANT LABELS. 3/8" x 4"; thin, will bend with leaves; easily written on with ordinary lead pencil, can be erased and used over; won't rot, mildew, or break; a fine Christmas gift to a violet-growing friend, sent gift wrapped if you desire, be sure to send name of person to whom they are to be sent. 125 for $1.00, postpaid.

MRS. NEIL C. MILLER

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Penns Grove, N. J.

New and Better Aids to Successful Violet Culture

Junius Violet Mix - A blend of fine grey sand with partially decomposed horticultural peat. Superb for seed flats, cuttings and leaf culture.

2 lb. plastic bag $1.00 postpaid.

Chatelier's water soluble Plant Food with nutritional organics. Guaranteed analysis 8-8-20. Generous 18 ounce can makes 118 gals. complete plant food.

Per can $1.00 postpaid.

Both for $1.80 postpaid.

JUNIUS PEAT COMPANY

481 South Main St. Geneva, N. Y.

Don't Take Chances!
PROTECT THOSE PRECIOUS VIOLETS

KAPSULATE - Means Sodium Selenate in Capsules by KAPCO. In a safer form to control mite on African violets.

Kills Insects Thru the Soil
Also used on other houseplants

18 capsules $1.25

NuPHOS-K is a soluble 15-30-15 complete plant food for liquid feeding.

7 ounces 49¢

Use KAPSULATE every 3 months for insect control.

Feed NuPHOS-K every 2 weeks for vigorous plant growth.

Both KAPSULATE and NuPHOS-K for $1.49.

KELLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CO.

603 Walnut Street
McKEESPORT, PENNA.

Evan Roberts - "The regular variegation is apt to be continued through seedlings."

Professor Holly-"Chances are slim of producing variegation in seedlings. With any plant there is a chance that an occasional variegated plant will come, and of course, if parent plants are variegated, there is more chance for the seedling to be variegated. The factor for variegation is a recessive one, so to get variegation in seedlings, one must have each parent carrying this factor; even then, most of the seedlings will be green."

E. B. Risley - "Seedlings from crossing variegated plants may produce seedlings, all of which, some of which, or none of which, are variegated, depending upon the genetic makeup of the plant. On this point, I do not have the information you are seeking. That is, we wish to know whether the factor for variegation in African violets is a dominant character or a recessive. Knowing this, we can apply the rules of Mendel and predict the results of crossing the different types of plants. It would be well to add that variations may also result from agents, such as heat, cold, mechanical injury, etc. Such variations occur on only one part of a plant, and vegetative offspring from this affected part usually will retain the new variations, although often reversion to the original will occur. These are known as sports or mutants and are rare and unpredictable."

Individuals interested in the drug Colchicine to induce variations in plants should read the book entitled **Plant Magic**, by James P. Haworth. Also see the government bulletin, "The Use of Colchicine in Plant Breeding", by Haig Dermen and S. L. Emsweller, as this is a lengthy subject in itself. Other good literature to read, which deals with variations, is the bulletin, "Genes, Species, Variability and Plant Breeding", by Dr. Orland E. White, and "Histogenesis of Some Bud Sports and Variegations", by Haig Dermen.

My own experiments with variegation are limited, but I will tell you what my observations have been. I have 10 variegated leaves of different varieties under propagation at the present time. I also have several small plants that are still too small to bloom or to predict whether they will continue to be true variegated plants or not. One very large and beautiful variegated leaf of Blue Girl came from Denver, Colorado. The elderly and very generous lady that gave it to me said, "I planted a green leaf from my Blue Girl plant and only one plant came up from the base of the stem; it was variegated."

Banish the . .

BLACK FLY

Esther E. Schadewald, Pa.

So many African violet fanciers have been annoyed or embarrassed by a swarm of Tiny Black Flies around their plants. The flowering plants look so beautiful on the dining room window sill, but Black Flies are most unwelcome guests at a dinner party.

Many have written in to the Editor offering their suggestions for eliminating the pests. Others have been contacted by mail and gladly offered to tell of their experiences with these flies. Their letters follow:

William E. Beatty

Los Angeles, California

"A few months ago, I reluctantly accepted some African violets from my sister and put them on the bench with my orchids. Shortly afterwards I noticed white maggots in the compost and a large number of black flies. As I had used this treatment before on orchids, I assumed it would do the violets no harm: on the compost I poured D.D.T. available under the trade name T.A.T., using half strength, i.e., one tablespoon to one gallon of water. One treatment was sufficient and I have seen no maggots or black flies since. I did not spray the foliage."

Mrs. Emil Rhoda

Oley, Pa.

"Black Flies are usually found in soils containing manures. I use manures that are very old and well rotted. These form a rich humus. Dried, shredded, commercial manures must be well rotted, too. If black flies have already appeared, they can be controlled if a spray program is carried out with Vapatone, Black Leaf 40, or a similar product, at five day intervals. Vapatone is excellent for killing Cyclamen or Broad Mite and Thrip. Usually two months is required for a complete cleanup."

Mrs. Paul Dissinger

Lancaster, Pa.

"Last year, for the first time in fifteen years of growing African violets, Black Flies appeared by the hundreds and I became frantic. I had used dehydrated cow manure, hyper humus and bone meal mixed with woods soil. I found that I had purchased an inferior grade of dehydrated cow manure, because a friend had the same experience with this brand as well. I took the matter up with a professor at the Lancaster experimental station. He said that dehydration will not kill the larva of Black Flies. It only kills weed growth. I sprayed Flit containing D.D.T. around the room containing the plants and found that it killed all of the flies. Flit has an oil base and would be apt to harm the plants if they were sprayed directly."

Nettie Yehnert

Akron, Ohio

"Here is a formula which I think will solve the problem of Black Flies.
1 tablespoon Household Ammonia
1 tablespoon Saltpeter
1 teaspoon Epsom Salts
1 teaspoon Baking Powder
Dissolve this in one gallon of water and use once a month, or oftener if necessary, and watch the plants grow and the flies go."

Nellie E. May

Baltimore, Md.

"A friend in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who has raised African violets over a long period of time, has had success using Safeway 10% D.D.T. It is an insecticide powder in a flexi-cap applicator box that is sold in the ten cent stores. Her friends have used it successfully, and I have used it whenever a plant looked suspicious or little gnats or flies appeared near the plants. It has never injured a plant and has also been used to clean mealy bugs from plants. The plants are dusted once with it and after two weeks the plants are dusted off with a fine brush and are found to be as good as new."

Marjorie Welton

Meriden, Kansas

"I have had plenty of experience with flies around my African violets, because I use a soil mixture which is rich with rotted cow manure. I tried every cure, and finally in desperation I used an "Aerosol Bug Bomb" containing 3% D.D.T. I used it first on a few plants and watched the results. After no spots appeared on the plants and the flies were dead, I used it

Cont. next page

For . . Rooting Leaves

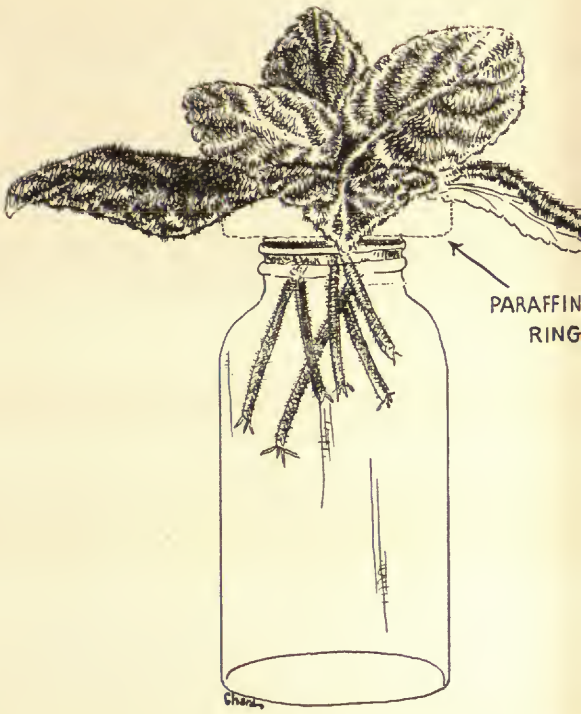

Illustration by Arthur Chard

Bess Skadron, Calif.

One of the safest and best methods of rooting saintpaulia leaves in water is the following. It never fails for me.

Make a paraffin ring or disk one-fourth inch thick and a little larger than the opening of the container you wish to use. Punch out a suitable number of holes through which you may insert leaf stems. Smooth the edges off so that there will be no rough places -- Place this ring over the open mouth of your container of water and set your leaves in place. They will root safely with no danger of decaying, as the paraffin does not seem to promote leaf rot. When they have rooted, break the paraffin ring apart and the little plantlets and tender young roots are not damaged at all.

Try it — you are sure to be pleased!

BANISH THE BLACK FLY

Cont. from page 47

around all of my plants. One or two sprays around each shelf was enough to do the job, then in a few days, when more flies hatched out, I repeated the treatment."

Mrs. Jack Rhodes

Lowellville, Ohio

"My experience with Black Flies quite a number of years ago was truly an unhappy one. After living in a fool's paradise for years, as I had never heard of house plants having pests, I discovered that the nice rich soil which I had dug from near the chicken house, must have been full of black flies. I had never heard of anyone sterilizing soil either. I laugh when I recall dragging out the vacuum cleaner attachments daily to gather the flies from the window panes. Needless to say, there was a fresh supply of flies daily. I finally decided to get busy with a spray. I used one teaspoon of nicotine to one quart of water and poured some of the solution around the edges of the pots. I did this six times at three day intervals. After that I saw no more black flies. Now I sterilize the soil."

Mrs. Robert Bruce

Memphis, Tennessee

"I think that I have the little Black Flies licked. They were very bad last spring. I used a powder called "Destro" with D.D.T. I sprinkled it on the soil (not the plant). I also sprinkled it on the window sills and tables containing my plants. It does not hurt the plants and I have not seen the flies since. I have been growing African violets for eighteen years as a hobby."

After reading these letters from the many growers, I was impressed by the fact that D.D.T. used in low percentage seems to be most successful in combating Black Flies.

CONVENTION DISPLAY

Cont. from page 11

and the My Lady Series with the Girl type foliage. Orchid Prince is orchid at the edge of the flower but shades much darker toward the center. The foliage is olive green and very red veined on the underside. Blue Moon has a round moon flower, medium blue. The leaves are glossy and dark green.

Nagler's display was not ready when the show opened, but we did enjoy their Admiration, rather like White Amazon or White Supreme, good flower and foliage. Marionette must have been the plant that drew so much interest in their showing in Atlanta. It had extremely large leaves that were broad and lighter green veins. Mary Nagler was in charge.

Helen Pochurek displayed Tunia's Red Butterfly, Fantasy and a very good White Girl.

Year Books were on display from many of the African Violet Clubs that showed not all of their time was spent on their plants.

Many very good plants are being left out of this report, but it is impossible to tell of them all. Even if the show had lasted a week, we would have regretted leaving it.

We missed the Exhibitors of the two years past who did not show plants this year; Ulery's, Bill Merkel, Mrs. Yoars, John Good and Peterson's. Henry Peterson did get to the show but did not have a display. Next year, perhaps we will have the privilege of seeing their plants, those who displayed this year, and still new ones. Judging from the plants we saw this year, it would not be too much of a surprise to see a scarlet or perhaps even a yellow one next year.

The Show was a success, thanks to those who brought plants, our officers and especially to Esther Schadewald and her Committee; it was a big undertaking and very well done.

AN AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

Every Day in the Year at GENT'S Greenhouses

ALWAYS OPEN

We have over 60 varieties - Thousands of plants continually in bloom.

Our prices are reasonable: 2¼ in. plants 50-75¢, 3 in. plants $1.00-$1.25, 4 in. plants $1.50-$2.00.

Newer Varieties Slightly Higher

These prices are at Greenhouse only. WE DO NOT SHIP.

Some of the new ones on our list are: Bronze Girl, Sailor Girl, Double Neptune, Blue Eyes Amazon, X Congo Queen (Red duPont), Blue Warrior, X Blue Eyed Beauty, X White Girl, X Fringette Series, X Fantasy, Violet Beauty, Giant Light Blue, Double Light Blue, Gorgeous Bi-Color.

Varieties marked X are higher priced. We sell wholesale on 25 plants or more - our selection.

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

From Rochester take Culver Road through Sea Breeze - 2 miles to Vosburg Road.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

THE GYPSY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ORGANIZED

In October of 1949 six violet enthusiasts met and organized Richmond, Indiana's second African violet society. The name of this new club is The Gypsy African Violet Club. Each member being the owner of at least one of the Gypsy Series of African violets.

Officers elected were:
President, Mrs. Ray E. Markey
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Geraldine Lacy
Treasurer, Mrs. Irene Teegarden
Secretary, Mrs. Cleo Hardwich
Reporter, Mrs. Robert Phillips

PIEDMONT CALIFORNIA

The African Violet Society of Alameda County was organized September 29th with six charter members. Officers elected for the coming year are:

President, Mrs. Evelyn Wroobel
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Harold Henningsen

Mrs. Constance Hansen will serve as Program Chairman, and plans are being made for participation in the California Spring Garden Show in April.

RICHMOND SHOW IS SUCCESS

Mrs. John T. Pangola was the outstanding winner of awards at the Richmond, Virginia Spring Show which was held on Saturday and Sunday June 3rd and 4th, at the Carillon. Best in the Show, first, second, and third prizes were won by Mrs. Pangola.

Numerous honorable ribbons were given in all classes. There were 210 entries. The Show was well attended with a large group of interested visitors both days.

Mrs. G. Hobert Frank served as show chairman with Mrs. George Ross as co-chairman. Judges were Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. J. Gottshall of Alexandria, Virginia.

OMAHA SPRING SHOW

The Joslyn Memorial was the setting for the Third Annual Show held by the Omaha African Violet Club.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Richert compare plants

Serving as chairman was Mrs. C. C. Anderson with Mr. Raymond Gain as assistant.

Long tiered tables were covered with green and silver foil as a background for the plants on display, and huge baskets of roses set among the violets brought out their lovely colors. One feature of the show was a table displaying all of the named varieties of saintpaulias. These were alphabetically arranged to give the visitors an idea of the large number of named varieties in commerce. Outstanding too was a table of seedlings raised by members of the club. These caused considerable comment because of their beauty. Pollination was explained at the propagation table. How to use African violets in arrangements were displayed and then arranged by Mrs. J. G. Groff.

Show attendance for the two days was around 8000 visitors who waited in long lines to see . . . "Whats New in Violets."

GREATER KANSAS CITY CLUB

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City was founded in April, 1950; with temporary officers appointed for six months. At the first meeting 49 members joined the club, which meets once a month.

After six months, the club has grown to 77 members, 31 of which are National Members. The first election was held September 12, with the following officers elected:—

President, Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Joe Herman
Secretary, Mrs. R. Milton Cochran
Treasurer, Mr. C. W. Carey
Corres.-Secy., Mrs. E. E. Davis

SALEM COUNTY SHOW

The Salem County African Violet Society held its fourth annual show on Wednesday, May 3, 1950 at the Greystone Inn, Woodstown, N. J. The show was open to the public from 2 until 9 P.M.

About 450 persons attended and visitors from several states attended.

There were 188 beautiful violets exhibited. Plants were arranged on long tables down one side of the room which made a beautiful display.

Across one end of the room a table held saintpaulias in interesting arrangements. Almost every type container was used. There was a strawberry jar nearly covered with blooming plants, a brass tea pot holding a lovely violet, and many other arrangements, equally attractive. One especially nice feature was an old log hewn out to make an ideal setting for several different varieties of violets, all in bloom.

There was also a display of seedlings and it was interesting to see them in different stages of growth.

Mrs. George Keen of Woodstown was Chairman of the Show.

Mrs. Radtke and Mrs. Turner

T. V. SOCIETY LUNCHEON

The Tennessee Valley African Violet Society had Mrs. Arthur Radtke as guest of honor at a luncheon October 31st, at Deane Hill Country Club.

Mrs. D. F. Harmon, social chairman and her committee had charge of the arrangements. Thanksgiving decorations were featured.

Attending the luncheon were members from the Oak Ridge, Athens, and Norris Clubs. One hundred and nine members and guests were present.

Mrs. L. M. Wright was in charge of reservations. Mrs. D. S. Turner, President presided.

HYPONeX

Grows Better Plants Faster in SOIL, SAND or WATER

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—instantly available. Results sure.

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

If your dealer can't supply you send $1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

The newest varieties available at all times. Stamp for list.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.
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POTS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

4" "Squatty" Clay Flower Pots, dark red in color and with excellent porosity, are ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS. Has specially treated edges to help prevent sloughing off of leaves. Used by florists for growing violets, and recommended as one of the best for good results. Shipped prepaid parcel post.

4 for $1.00 10 for $2.00
25¢ additional postage west of the Rockies

CERAMO COMPANY

Box 84-A Jackson, Missouri

TWO FINE NEW PRODUCTS FOR YOUR VIOLETS . . . .

VIOLET LAZY SUZAN
(Patent Pending)

Our Violet Lazy Suzan is the last word in proper display for those favorite house plants. A gentle push will revolve the three tiers in the pedestal. This feature enables you to change the position of your plants which is important in the proper culture of plants that receive indirect sunlight. All plants are made readily accessible for watering and other care with practically no effort.

The Suzan is a very useful table in many other ways in the home. It is well constructed of plywood; weighs 20 lbs.; is 40" in height with 10" between tiers. It is 24" in diameter and the tiers will hold 10 to 12 large plants or 20 to 24 small ones. Available in natural finish only or unfinished and ready for staining to match surrounding furniture. The Suzan would make a grand Christmas gift but be sure to order early to insure delivery.

Prices - Parcel Post Prepaid:

Violet Lazy Suzan - Unfinished @ $12.50
Violet Lazy Suzan - Finished @ $14.95

(Add $1.25 extra postage to Western States)

Gro-Mulch is the wonderful new all organic material that is being talked about in garden circles. Gro-Mulch is mellowed in the aging deposits of Spanish Moss that have lain for over 50 years in the bayou section of South Louisiana. Earthworms that are attracted by the tender moss particles, have converted the deposits into a superlatively rich soil conditioner. The deposits are recovered, dehydrated, refined and packed into bags for your use.

A mixture of one part Gro-Mulch to two parts of soil will make a superlatively rich medium in which to grow your plants. The luxuriant growth and colorful blooms in greater quantities will delight you.

10 Pound Bag Prepaid Parcel Post @ $2.00

(Add 75¢ extra postage to Western States)

80 Pound Bag - Motor Freight Collect @ $7.00

GRO-MULCH
A PRODUCT FOR THE PROUD GARDENER
MULCHES AND AIDS GROWTH IN ONE OPERATION
THE NEW ALL ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER
RECOMMENDED FOR ALL FLOWERS, VEGETABLES & PLANTS
MILLED AND PACKED BY
GRO-MULCH MFG. COMPANY
NAPOLEONVILLE, LA.

BOX 8066 **SCHROEDER'S INC.** CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

VIRDANS True Flowering

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Vigorous, healthy plants, out of 3 inch pots, in bud or bloom. Our reputation for integrity and highest quality plants is attested by thousands of customers coast to coast. You can buy violets cheaper -- but not plants like these!

NEW HYBRID GIRLS	Sailor Girl -- light blue Blue Girl -- Bronzeleaf Hybrid Detroit White Girl Red Girl -- Bronzeleaf Hybrid Pink Girl -- Prettiest Pink
BLUES	Lady Geneva -- White Edge Blossom Neptune Supreme --Brand New Double Neptune -- Only Perfect Double
REDS	Red King
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